House OKs $11.5-million supplemental budget. PAGE 2
Company says casino operator owes $25K. PAGE 3

Hafa Adai!

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75¢

IN TORRES VS BABAUTA DEBATE

It came down to track records

By JON PEREZ
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REPORTER

Sparks flew last night as Gov. Ralph DLG Torres and challenger Juan N. Babauta squared off in a gubernatorial debate last night at the Pedro P. Tenorio Multi-Purpose Center.

Families, friends, and supporters of both candidates either watched the event live at the Multi-Purpose Center or online through the Facebook page of the Northern Marianas College.

In an event moderated by Lannie Walker of the KSPN TV station, both

See DEBATE on Page 4

JON PEREZ

Gov. Ralph DLG Torres, left, delivers his opening remarks while former governor Juan N. Babauta listens in last night's hourlong CNMI Gubernatorial Debate at the Pedro P. Tenorio Multi-Purpose Center.

5 Mariana crows to be released Friday

» First-ever release of *aga* into the wild on Rota
» University of Washington to track released birds for a year

By FERDIE DE LA TORRE
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REPORTER

Due to damaged vegetation wrought by Typhoon Mangkhut on Rota, the CNMI Division of Fish & Wildlife has re-scheduled for Friday, Sept. 28, the first-ever release into the wild of five reared Mariana crows, which is the most critically endangered crow in the world.

DFW supervisor Jill Liske-Clark said the original date to release the

See CROWS on Page 4

Photo shows reared Mariana crows while growing in a facility. The CNMI Division of Fish and Wildlife has reset the release into the wild of five Mariana crows or *aga* on Rota this Friday. DFW PHOTO

Boat charter to get 14 early votes: $26K to $27K

By FERDIE DE LA TORRE
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REPORTER

The Commonwealth Election Commission is preparing to spend $26,000 to $27,000 to charter a boat to deliver ballots for early voting for the Nov. 6 general election of 14 voters on the Northern Islands.

Sablan

The CEC doesn't know if additional registered voters will stay on the Northern Islands because a ship chartered by the CNMI Homeland Security was set to leave for an emergency trip to the Northern Islands yesterday to carry supplies to the islands.

Election register clerk Robin Sablan disclosed that they don't know if anyone among the passengers in the ship are Northern Islands' voters.

He said that, as of Monday, they

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TASK FORCE DAGGER
Fulfilling a promise

By BEA CABRERA
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CORRESPONDENT

Task Force Dagger Foundation was recently on Saipan, looking for fallen World War II airplanes in the waters around the Marianas with the hope of retrieving artifacts that might help them identify the pilots and crewmembers.

"Task Force Dagger is composed of a group of individuals who were are all in the special operations community, represent-

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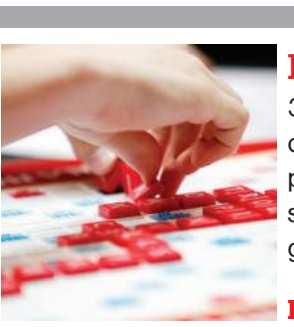
INSIDE

LOCAL
An Indonesian teenager survives 49 days adrift at sea
PAGE 8

ASIA
Opposition leader Ibrahim Mohamed Solih wins Maldives presidency amid storm.
PAGE 16



LIFE & STYLE
300 new words are coming Scrabble players' way, including some long-awaited gems.
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SCAN ME WITH A COMPATIBLE QR READER TO KEEP UPDATED ON ALL THE LATEST NEWS.

Local

House OKs $11.5-million supplemental budget

By JON PEREZ
jon_perez@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

The House of Representatives yesterday unanimously passed a supplemental budget that allocates $11.5 million to the CNMI Settlement Fund and $3.5 million for the CNMI State Public School System.

House Bill 2-187 HD2, which now goes to the Senate for further action, appropriates a total of $20,884,522. The money comes from the Special Casino Gross Revenue Tax Account. The funds are for the ongoing fiscal year that is about to end on Sunday, Sept. 30.

"We needed to act fast so that the Settlement Fund, PSS, and Northern Marianas College could fulfill their obligations," said Rep. Angel A. Demapan (R-House), who introduced the bill. "The funds [allocated] are for expenses they incurred for the end of the month, because [SCGRT] is not elapsing."

"They [agencies] can actually fulfill their obligations. Because of the urgency, we're also hopeful the Senate can also act on it quickly. They [Senate] are aware that this bill is forthcoming."

Demapan

Gov. Ralph DLG Torres advised the Legislature—House and Senate—last week, identifying the funds that are available for appropriation. This was the second supplemental appropriations bill after Public Law 20-42 early this year.

All 18 members present voted "yea" while vice speaker Janet U. Maratita (R-Saipan) and Rep. Joe I. Itibus (R-Saipan) were excused in yesterday's session at the House chamber on Capital Hill.

Demapan said $11,534,522 would go the Settlement Fund. "The [amount] is overdue payments by the Commonwealth government for fiscal year 2016."

"As you know, the Settlement Fund agreement has a provision that whenever the revenues in a certain fiscal year go above the projection, 17 percent of the difference goes to the Settlement Fund. The $11 million is to pay for the 17 percent difference from fiscal year 2016," added Demapan.

A total of $3.5 million is intended for the CNMI retiree bonuses and will be equally distributed to all members of the Settlement Class and CNMI Retirement Fund that are receiving an annuity.

H.B. 20-187 also allocates $3.7 million for PSS, with $1.7 million allocated for their Group Health and Life Insurance program while $446,798 is intended for their operating expenses and repairs.

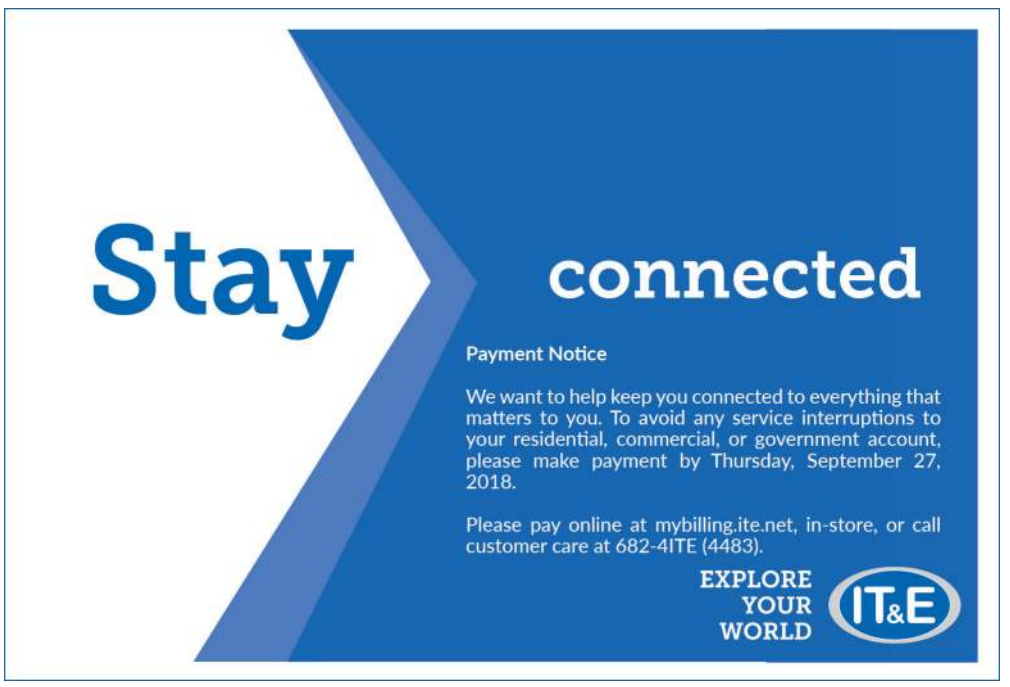
Rep. Edwin P. Aldan (R-Tinian), the House Education Committee chair, entered a floor amendment to increase from $40,000 to $60,0000 the amount allocated for the construction of the Tinian Elementary School amphitheater. The amount remains part of the $446,798.

House floor leader Rep. Glenn P. Maratita (R-Rota) also included the purchase of 41 air-conditioning units and one riding mower for the Dr. Rita H. Inos Junior/Senior High School from the same money intended for operational and repair expenses.

Others included in PSS' $3.7- million allocation is $700,000 for the Special Education Program, $400,000 for utilities, $200,000 for the Leadership Core Program, $153,202 for e-rate matching, and $100,000 for CIP projects.

Demapan said the bill is part of the $12-million supplemental budget for PSS that they passed early this year. "We had committed to give them [PSS] $15 million, so the $3.7 million fulfills that commitment."

Demapan said NMC would be receiving $1 million, which is the same amount for Rota's recovery efforts after the devastation wrought by Typhoon Mangkhut while the Marianas Political Status Commission is allocated $150,000. "It's for the current [fiscal year 2016]. For PSS and NMC to pay for their expenditures for fiscal year 2018."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Company says casino operator owes $25K

By ERWIN ENCINARES
erwin_encinares@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

A local architectural and engineering firm spoke up during Monday's Commonwealth Casino Commission meeting to inform them that Imperial Pacific International (CNMI) LLC has yet settle their balances with the firm.

During meeting's public comment section, Tony Cabrera, representing the architectural and engineering firm Herman B. Cabrera & Associates, informed the commission that IPI has yet to settle a balance of about $25,000 in services rendered by the company.

The company is reportedly weighing its options, which possibly include pursuing the matter in court. "We are not sure yet. But if the court is where we can settle this, then we would go to the courts, [but] we don't want to go that far," Cabrera said yesterday.

The company, according to Cabrera, was contracted for

» Firm says unpaid receivable since 2016

about $66,000 for architectural and engineering consultation, including the review and certification of construction blueprints, all a requirement of the CNMI building code. He declined to disclose an exact amount.

"The last [billing] we sent out to [IPI] was probably the sixth or seventh notice for them," Cabrera informed the commission Monday.

CCC chair Juan Sablan noted that one of the notices mentioned a billing sent to IPI in September 2016.

Cabera clarified that those were additional invoices and that altogether, IPI was billed about $66,000.

"About more than half has been paid," Cabrera said. "… [After] the last outstanding balance [notice], we never heard from them after that."

Saipan Tribune reached out to IPI twice—once on Monday and once more yesterday—but the Hong Kong-based company declined to comment.

Sablan, addressing IPI chief financial officer Ed Chen, noted that the firm is not the only one complaining about not receiving payment from IPI.

"…Last time, we had clients coming in and complaining about the non-payment of billings," referring to a recent House gaming committee, where another member of the public complained about not receiving payment from IPI. "CFO, I hope you take [this] seriously because that is not an acceptable method of operation."

Cabrera emphasized the company's patience with IPI, especially since the company has not responded to several of their notices.

"We have been waiting for a response," he added.

CCC vice chair Joseph Reyes assured Cabrera that the commission "would immediately request for a response [from IPI]."

SHIPLOAD SALE

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	MAZDA 3i SPORT	DISCOUNT	PRICE
~~8D248~~	~~White, 4-cyl. Engine, AT, back~~ SOLD	~~$3,000~~	~~$17,995~~
~~8D249~~	~~Red, 4-cyl. Engine, AT, back~~ SOLD	~~$3,000~~	~~$17,995~~
8D250	Red, 4-cyl. Engine, AT, back-up camera	$3,000	$17,995
8D256	Silver, 4-cyl. Engine, AT, back-up camera	$3,000	$17,995
8D257	Silver, 4-cyl. Engine, AT, back-up camera	$3,000	$17,995
~~8D228~~	~~White, 4-cyl. Engine, AT, back~~ SOLD ~~, alloy wheels~~	~~$4,500~~	~~$18,495~~
~~8D229~~	~~Black, 4-cyl. Engine, AT, back~~ SOLD ~~, alloy wheels~~	~~$4,500~~	~~$18,495~~
~~8D230~~	~~Gray, 4-cyl. Engine, AT, back~~ SOLD ~~, alloy wheels~~	~~$4,500~~	~~$18,495~~
8D231	Blue, 4-cyl. Engine, AT, back-up camera, alloy wheels	$4,500	$18,495
8D258	Red, 4-cyl. Engine, AT, back-up camera, alloy wheels	$4,500	$18,495
8D259	Gray, 4-cyl. Engine, AT, back-up camera, alloy wheels	$4,500	$18,495
8D281	Red, 4-cyl. Engine, AT, back-up camera, alloy wheels	$4,500	$18,495
8D282	Black, 4-cyl. Engine, AT, back-up camera, alloy wheels	$4,500	$18,495
	MAZDA 6i TOURING		
8D235	White, 4-cyl. Engine, AT, back-up camera, alloy wheels	$3,000	$23,995
8D236	Red, 4-cyl. Engine, AT, back-up camera, alloy wheels	$3,000	$23,995
	2019 CX-3		
9D001	Brown, 4-cyl. Engine, AT, 2wd, Sport	$3,000	$20,995
~~9D002~~	~~Ceramic, 4-cyl. Engine, AT, 2~~ SOLD	~~$3,000~~	~~$20,995~~
9D003	Gray, 4-cyl. Engine, AT, Awd, Leather, Grand Touring	$3,000	$25,995
9D004	Red, 4-cyl. Engine, AT, Awd, Leather, Grand Touring	$3,000	$25,995
	2018 CX-5 GRAND TOURING		
8D203	White, 4-cyl. Engine, AT, Awd, Leather, Sunroof	$3,000	$27,995
8D204	Silver, 4-cyl. Engine, AT, Awd, Leather, Sunroof	$3,000	$27,995
8D218	White, 4-cyl. Engine, AT, Awd, Leather, Sunroof	$2,000	$28,995
8D219	Blue, 4-cyl. Engine, AT, Awd, Leather, Sunroof	$2,000	$28,995
~~8D243~~	~~Black, 4-cyl. Engine, AT, Awd~~ SOLD ~~nroof~~	~~$2,000~~	~~$28,995~~
	2019 CX-9 GRAND TOURING		
8D103	White, 4-cyl. turbo Engine, AT, Awd, Leather, 7-Pax	$10,000	$34,995
8D128	Silver, 4-cyl. turbo Engine, AT, Awd, Leather, 7-Pax	$10,000	$34,995

HYUNDAI

	2018 TUCSON	DISCOUNT	PRICE
8H096	Blue, 4-cyl. Engine, AT, 2wd, back-up camera, alloy wheels	$3,000	$22,995
~~8H097~~	~~Gray, 4-cyl. Engine, AT, 2wd, bac~~ SOLD ~~, alloy wheels~~	~~$3,000~~	~~$22,995~~
8H099	Black, 4-cyl. Engine, AT, 2wd, back-up camera, alloy wheels	$3,000	$22,995
8H100	Silver, 4-cyl. Engine, AT, 2wd, back-up camera, alloy wheels	$3,000	$22,995
8H101	Silver, 4-cyl. Engine, AT, 2wd, back-up camera, alloy wheels	$3,000	$22,995
8H102	Silver, 4-cyl. Engine, AT, 2wd, back-up camera, alloy wheels	$3,000	$22,995
8H103	Red, 4-cyl. Engine, AT, 2wd, back-up camera, alloy wheels	$3,000	$22,995
8H104	Gray, 4-cyl. Engine, AT, 2wd, back-up camera, alloy wheels	$3,000	$22,995
8H105	Black, 4-cyl. Engine, AT, 2wd, back-up camera, alloy wheels	$3,000	$22,995
8H107	Red, 4-cyl. Engine, AT, 2wd, back-up camera, alloy wheels	$3,000	$22,995
	2018 SANTA FE		
8H073	Silver, 6-pax, 2wd, back-up camera, alloy wheels	$5,000	$28,995

MITSUBISHI

	2018 MIRAGE SE HATCHBACK	DISCOUNT	PRICE
8M030	White, 3-cyl. Engine, AT, back-up camera, keyless entry	$3,500	$15,495
~~8M031~~	~~Red, 3-cyl. Engine, AT, back-up c~~ SOLD ~~ess entry~~	~~$3,500~~	~~$15,495~~
8M032	Silver, 3-cyl. Engine, AT, back-up camera, keyless entry	$3,500	$15,495
~~8M035~~	~~Red, 3-cyl. Engine, AT, back-up c~~ SOLD ~~ess entry~~	~~$3,500~~	~~$15,495~~
8M036	Gray, 3-cyl. Engine, AT, back-up camera, keyless entry	$3,500	$15,495
	2018 MIRAGE G4 SEDAN		
8M019	White, 3-cyl. Engine, AT, back-up camera, keyless entry	$3,500	$15,495
~~8M020~~	~~Silver, 3-cyl. Engine, AT, back-up~~ SOLD ~~less entry~~	~~$3,500~~	~~$15,495~~
~~8M021~~	~~Red, 3-cyl. Engine, AT, back-up c~~ SOLD ~~ess entry~~	~~$3,500~~	~~$15,495~~
~~8M022~~	~~Gray, 3-cyl. Engine, AT, back-up c~~ SOLD ~~less entry~~	~~$3,500~~	~~$15,495~~
8M026	Blue, 3-cyl. Engine, AT, back-up camera, keyless entry	$3,000	$15,995
~~8M027~~	~~Black, 3-cyl. Engine, AT, back-up~~ SOLD ~~yless entry~~	~~$3,000~~	~~$15,995~~
8M033	White, 3-cyl. Engine, AT, back-up camera, keyless entry	$3,000	$15,995
8M034	Red, 3-cyl. Engine, AT, back-up camera, keyless entry	$3,000	$15,995

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CROWS

From Page 1

crows, locally known as *aga*, was Sept. 13, but this was postponed due to Typhoon Mangkhut that hit Rota last Sept. 10.

The release of these crows into the wild on Rota is, according to Liske-Clark, a huge milestone in their captive rearing program.

That is why they are not providing the specific location of the release site, Liske-Clark said, to protect the birds. She would only say that it is public land on the east side of the island.

She said the place was selected because the forest provides quality habitat (even after Typhoon Mangkhut) and was formerly occupied by crows, but is currently unoccupied.

"The released crows will have less competition with wild crows to establish and defend territories," she said.

Five more Mariana crows will be released next month.

Of the 10 birds that will be released, nine are females and one is male.

Liske-Clark said the ratio is purely by chance.

The University of Washington will be tracking the released crows for approximately one year after their release to ensure they are doing well in the wild.

Lands and Natural Resources Secretary Anthony Benavente and DFW director Manny Pangelinan both plan to attend the release on Rota but it will not be open to the public.

There are fewer than 200 Mariana crows left globally, all of them on Rota. The Guam population of the species was wiped out many years ago.

To prevent extinction, DLNR, the San Diego Zoo, University of Washington, and U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service initiated a captive rearing program on Rota two years ago.

"Eggs and chicks were taken from the nests of wild birds and brought into a facility for rearing, safe from predators, storms, and other events that cause failure of nests in the wild," she said.

Liske-Clark said the first group of captive-raised Mariana crow are now 2 years old and are ready for release.

She said San Diego Zoo has been extremely successful in rearing Mariana crow in captivity, with all viable eggs hatched and 95 percent of all hatchlings surviving to independence.

Thirteen younger birds remain in captivity and will be released next year.

The population of *aga* has declined by about 50 percent since the 1990s, which prompted the decision to start the captive rearing program in 2016.

In 2014, for the first time in CNMI history, two captive Mariana crows, which were under the watch and care of the Rota Avian Behavioral Ecology Program, were released into the wild.

BOAT

From Page 1

learned from the Northern Islands Mayor's Office that, of the 26 people currently staying on those islands, 14 are registered voters for the islands and eight are not.

He said the remaining four are registered voters of Precinct 4A, which covers the Tanapag area.

The Northern Islands itself have 177 registered voters.

Robin Sablan and CEC executive director Julita Sablan said that, even if there is only one registered voter on the Northern Islands, they have go there and get the lone vote, as required by law.

Robin Sablan said there is no exact date as to when they are leaving for the Northern Islands for early voting because the boat that they may charter is currently heading to Saipan from Guam.

He said other boats cannot accommodate them all—about six total passengers from CEC, Department of Public Safety, Office of the Public Auditor, and Office of the Attorney General.

He said the back-and-forth travel takes three hours for each three islands—Pagan, Agrihan, and Alamagan—or about 2.5 days in all.

Although the early voting for those currently staying on the Northern Islands started last Saturday, CEC has a 45-day window to conduct it.

DEBATE

From Page 1

candidates responded to questions on topics that ranged from the environment and sustainable development, to immigration, healthcare, casino gaming, welfare, and the workforce.

Torres, the incumbent and standard-bearer of the CNMI Republican Party, was the first to speak by virtue of the coin toss made in the presence of the organizers and the representatives of both candidates.

His first shot quickly focused on Babauta's track record as the former CNMI chief executive—as a one-term governor from 2002 to 2006—and chief executive officer of the Commonwealth Healthcare Corp.

He likened the election to someone who would visit your house where you must know the person's background and record. "Here in this election, voters are lucky. To all that call the CNMI your home, you have two candidates who have dealt with the retirement fund, workforce, deficit, and the economy."

"You have seen leadership, the progress or regress. You don't have blank faces. Over the next hour, I'm sure my opponent will attack my record, a concept I gladly embrace. I also ask that he stands by his record as former governor and CEO of the hospital, and that he doesn't run away from that record."

Torres, who is running with Senate President Arnold Palacios (R-Saipan) as his lieutenant governor, detailed some of his administration's accomplishments, highlighting the work they had done in helping the NMI Retirement Fund. "As your governor working with the Republican leadership, we have paid the Retirement Fund 100 percent of all obligations amounting to over $150 million, protecting our retirees and their families," he said.

"A progress even my opponent cannot disclaim. In fact my opponent's administration failed to pay $42 million in retirement contribution. Many employees were forced to withdraw their retirement pension. Today we have zero deficit, my opponent in one term encumbered $74 million in total deficit spending," he added.

He said his critics took issue with his youth, saying and that he lacks the experience to lead the CNMI.

Yet, despite this, Torres said, his administration just continued working. "We are busy making improvements. I will continue to make tough decisions that will help all islands even if it is unpopular."

"Look around, we continue to diversify our economy: our gaming industry and recently I signed a cannabis bill. We have increased the U.S. citizen workforce by 27 percent. We have also diverted our resources to the most vulnerable members of the community—the substance abuse program with the HOPE Center, we opened up the drug program, and Drug Court to help with rehabilitation and not just punishment. We now allowed high school diploma holders to receive scholarship for trades school."

He closed his opening statement with: "Do not let him ran away from his record as we proudly stand by our record."

Babauta, who is an independent candidate running with Rita Inos as his lieutenant governor, said that running for public office should be for the greater good and service must come from the heart. "When a person seeks public office, there must be a compelling reason to do so. To some, the desire to serve is the highest order. It is a calling for the greater good. Recognizing the desire to serve and must come from the heart. Keeping it to heart."

He said the last four years of the Inos-Torres administration have forfeited the public's trust in CNMI leaders. Torres was the lieutenant governor of the late governor Eloy S. Inos when they won the 2014 election; the former took over the reins of government after Inos died in late 2015.

"The events of the last four years once again cast a sinister view of our government. It is not a government at its best. It has eroded public confidence and cast a dark cloud over the integrity of many who are supposed to be in positions of public trust," said Babauta in his opening statement.

He cited some problems, especially relating to the multi-billion dollar casino-hotel project of Imperial Pacific International (CNMI) LLC. "Workers are being exploited. Workers die at worksites without explanation. And no one is being held responsible. Workers are unjustly compensated and silenced by flying them out of the CNMI in the middle of the night."

Babauta said that problems brought the construction of Imperial Pacific Resort could somehow affect the CNMI's relationship with the federal government. "This will place the visa waiver program in jeopardy and we want to prevent that from happening."

He added that not all of the CNMI's problems have been addressed. "In our local community, sadly, far too many are suffering. Sixty percent remain at the poverty income level, with 14,000 with little or no personal household income. Forty-five percent of our population is uninsured and can't even pay the deductibles."

"It can be concluded that the wealth is in the hands of the few. This is not the CNMI I envisioned when we became U.S. citizens in 1986. I want to keep the vision of the Covenant alive. A progressively higher standard of living and quality of life."

Last night's event was staged by the Saipan Chamber of Commerce, in cooperation with telecommunication's firm IT&E, and NMC. It was intended to raise funds for the Chamber.

The general election itself will take place on Nov. 6.

PROMISE

From Page 1

ing all services—Air Force, Marines, Army, and Navy… We come from different disciplines from all over the country. We all come together for this specific event because the common thing that binds everybody is the camaraderie and fellowship when you serve and…that feeling of connection is still there, no matter what," Task Force Dagger Foundation board member Mark Stephens said.

"Our purpose here is something that we can all relate to because many of us have been in situations where we lost somebody while in combat and not being able to bring them home. What we are doing here is fulfilling a promise that our country made—that we find them and bring them back to their families," Stephens added.

The invasion of Saipan by American troops on June 15, 1944 went on for 24 days and thousands of U.S. military men took part in what turned out to be a huge and costly undertaking in the Pacific.

Jennifer F. McKinnon, associate professor and director of Graduate Studies at East Carolina University, said that Task Force Dagger's current undertaking is a partnership among different entities.

"We partnered with the United States Department of Defense, POW/MIA Accounting Agency, our group Task Force Dagger, Florida Public Archeology Network, and several other partners. Task Force Dagger has a lot of background and special training that can be beneficial in that sort of recovery project, that's why we've bonded and formed as a team. Ideally, we would love to have the aircraft itself and the potential to take it to the next stage as we would like to come back out and do an excavation on the site to recover the human remains," she said.

"When the crash happened, the soft tissues goes away but the bones can be preserved on the site and recovering those, matching and sending them back to DPAA's lab and having a DNA test on to see if they can locate one of the wrecks that were missing. …That's ultimately what we are looking for," she added.

Several islands were a part of the Pacific War when it happened and Task Force Dagger has chosen to come here.

According to Task Force Dagger Foundation managing director Keith David, they chose the Marianas because people here are extremely patriotic.

"For our guys, coming into a place somewhere in the Pacific is really almost like a bucket list item because this is not something the guys can do on their own. Getting a chance to go to a place where they can study the history and follow the tactics and strategy of the battles is important and life changing," he said.

"The people in Guam and the Marianas have a level of service to the U.S. that's extremely awesome, so this is a physical demonstration that if one of Saipan's sons or daughters were lost, their country will spare no expense to bring them home," he added.

McKinnon came to know Saipan from other studies under different grants in the past. "I came out to Saipan about 10 years ago interested in doing Spanish colonial research but when I came out, there was all of this World War II stuff… I'm just always thankful that the community is welcoming to the research that we do and we try really hard to work with the community and the most important thing is they've been good stewards of these sights for the last 75 years," she said.

"They are part of this island, part of the history here and that the community protects those sites…without their interest and protection, that shared history, this kind of thing wouldn't be able to happen," she added.

Stephens said there are still some 70,000-plus military servicemen missing. "We have a lot of ground to cover and so this is a great place for us to start to learn and understand the processes that we have to do. Historically, this is a very important place. …Regardless of how long it has been, our country made a promise to those that served that 'we would come back and get you' and so whether it be one year or 75 years, we are one of the only countries that does this by investing the time, resources and people in doing it. It gives peace of mind for all those that served. We are grateful and honored to be part of this project as we help that process to bring them home and give closure to the family," he added.

Search for Miss Marianas 2019 begins

Young women across the CNMI now have the opportunity to help their community by becoming a positive role model and ambassador to the world with 2019 Miss Marianas Pageant scheduled this February.

The nonprofit pageant and talent group, Stellar Marianas, is encouraging 18-25-year-old contestants to join the islands' premier pageant and international competition.

Stellar Marianas is inviting interested applicants to apply by picking up an application at Pena House boutique in Chalan Kanoa and Iridescent boutique in Garapan or downloading an application from www.facebook.com/stellarmarianas or emailing stellarqueens@gmail.com.

"This is truly a lifetime opportunity and the honor to represent our islands to the best of your ability. We highly encourage our young women to join these worthwhile and positive community and global events as the experience is not only incredibly fun, but will also boost confidence and offer lifelong skills," said Stellar Marianas public relations director Monique Sablan.

Stellar Marianas is also inviting the community to tag or post photos of who they think should be the next Miss Marianas with #nextmissmarianas on Instagram or Facebook.

Rehearsals and preparation will begin soon and the theme is "Celestial," celebrating the islands' starry beauty as well as strong cultural heritage of exploration and navigation by the stars.

The 2019 Miss Marianas contestant must be 18 to 25 year olds, must be U.S. citizen, single, not married, has no children, and of good moral and ethical character.

Titleholders have the opportunity to represent the CNMI at an international pageant as well as have the support and resources to be an active community volunteer.

Contestants will receive a Stellar Marianas Beauty Bag, Hair and Make Up Training sessions, nutrition and fitness training, model portfolio, media interview and public speaking training sessions, opening number outfit, and swim wear from Stellar Marianas.

Miss Marianas 2019 could win: a crown, trophy, sash and flowers, $1,500 cash, all-expense paid travel opportunity to compete at international pageant, all-expense paid travel opportunities, one year use of a brand new car, a brand new smart phone, one-year supply of beauty products, one-year gym membership, a professional model portfolio, a four-piece luggage set from Stellar Marianas, and an opportunity to create and implement a community project under your name assisted by Stellar Marianas.

For more information, email stellarqueens@gmail.com or join Stellar Marianas on Facebook. ***(PR)***

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO
2018 Miss Marianas Celine Cabrera.

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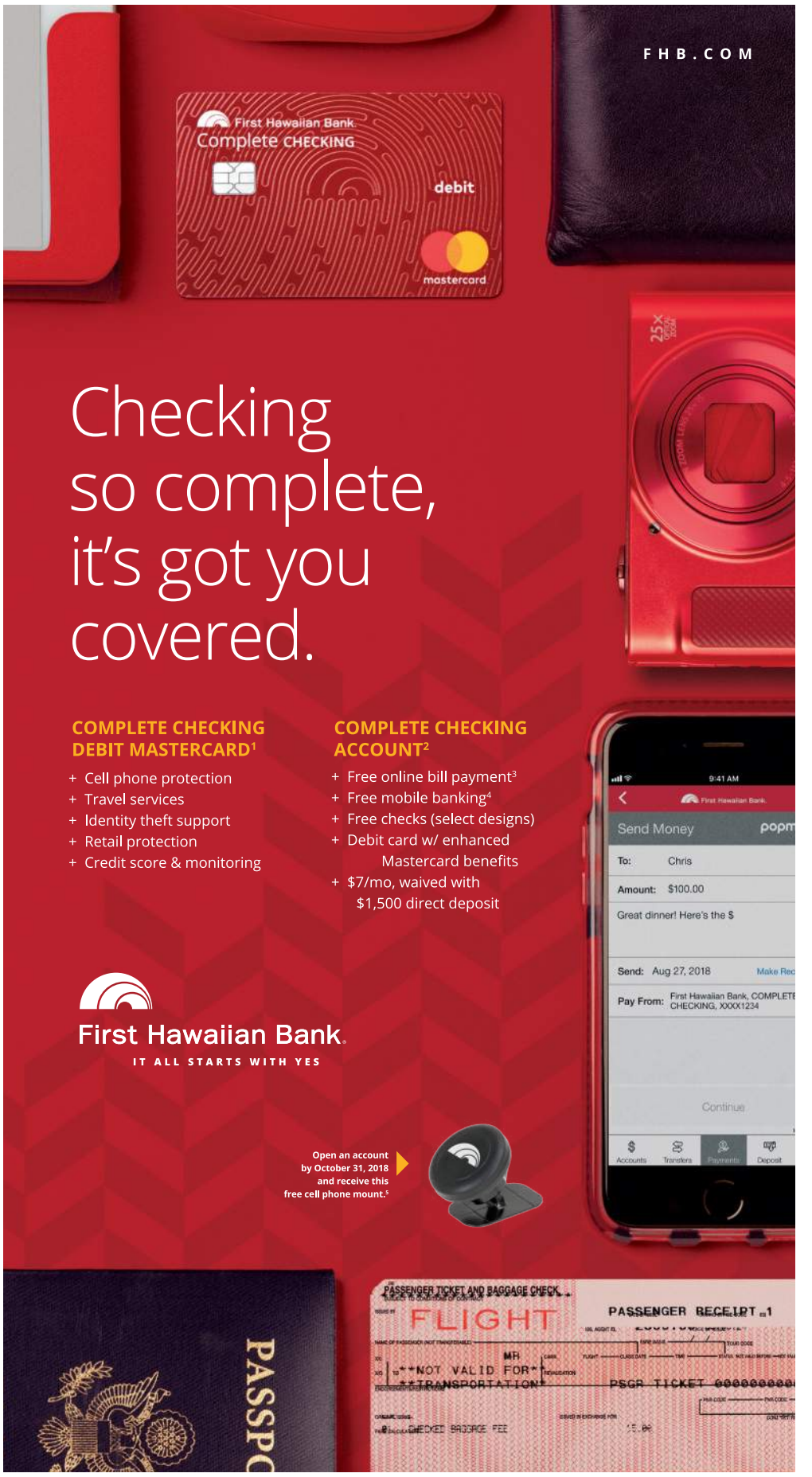

1 The benefits mentioned above are only offered on or with a Complete Checking Debit Mastercard ("Debit Card"), which you can only have if you open a Complete Checking Account. Additional restrictions apply. The benefits include cell phone or other types of insurance that require use of the Debit Card. Registration at www.fhb.com/completedebit is required for certain benefits (credit score, credit monitoring & activity alerts, additional ID monitoring and ID theft - family coverage, etc.). First Hawaiian Bank and Mastercard reserve the right to cancel or change the benefits at any time without prior notice. If your Complete Checking Account and/or Debit Card is canceled or closed for any reason, access to the benefits may be terminated at any time without notice. Please review your Guide to Benefits at www.fhb.com/completedebit for detailed information.
2 Please refer to the Deposit Account Rules and Regulations, fee schedule and any other agreements you received when you opened your Complete Checking Account for additional details about your checking accounts. The minimum deposit to open an account is $100.00 (or just $5.00 with direct deposit).
3 Does not apply to access through Quicken® or QuickBooks®. FHB access through Quicken® or QuickBooks® is $9.95 per month. Optional Online Banking Features may incur additional fees. See Terms & Conditions of the FHB Online Services for more details.
4 You must be enrolled in FHB Online and have a mobile device with internet to use FHB Mobile Banking. Device must have a rear-facing camera with autofocus to use Mobile Deposit. See FAQs in the "Mobile Deposit" section of fhb.com/mobile for Mobile Deposit eligibility requirements. Checks deposited via Mobile Deposit are treated as deposits by mail for funds availability purposes. See Terms and Conditions of FHB Online services for full details. Text banking not available in Guam or CNMI.
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IN LATE CECILIA FLORES' $40M LAWSUIT TO COLLECT CERTIFICATE OF DEPOSIT

9th Circuit denies Derron Flores' petition for rehearing

The U.S. Court of Appeals for the Ninth Circuit has denied Derron G. Flores' petition for a rehearing on his request to substitute him as plaintiff in the $40-million lawsuit that his late mother filed against a bank and its former employees.

The Ninth Circuit affirmed last month the federal court's ruling that denied Derron G. Flores' request to substitute him as plaintiff in his late mother's lawsuit.

The Ninth Circuit judges agreed with U.S. District Court for the NMI Chief Judge Ramona V. Manglona's ruling that Cecilia Flores' tort claims were extinguished once she died.

Derron Flores had filed a petition for panel rehearing, but the Ninth Circuit denied the petition on Friday.

A petition for rehearing is submitted to the panel of judges that decided the case.

According to the order, Circuit Judge Susan P. Graber voted to deny the petition for a rehearing and Circuit Judge Richard C. Tallman and U.S. District Judge for the Eastern District of Louisiana Ivan L.R. Lemelle so recommend.

Cecilia Flores originally filed the case in the CNMI Superior Court. It was moved to the federal court.

Cecila Flores sued Union Bank and its two former employees over a bank manager's alleged unauthorized release of Donald Flores' money years prior to his death from his $200,000 time certificate of deposit to a person representing him.

Cecilia Flores alleged that Union Bank "allowed an impostor to redeem her 1993 certificate of deposit and hid that …all these years to her detriment."

Both Cecilia Flores and her husband, former Saipan Mayor Donald Flores, who bought the certificate of deposit, died while the lawsuit was pending.

Derron Flores, the son and only known child of the Flores couple, attempted to substitute as plaintiff.

In an April 2016 order denying Derron Flores' request to substitute, Manglona ruled that Cecilia Flores' claims were extinguished when she died in September 2015. Manglona also dismissed Cecilia Flores' lawsuit.

Derron, through counsel Juan T. Lizama, appealed to the Ninth Circuit to reverse Manglona's ruling.

In November 2017, federal jurors favored MUFG Union Bank in Derron Flores' separate lawsuit to collect the $200,000 certificate of deposit. ***(Ferdie de la Torre)***

Department of Public Safety officers and child-safety advocates attend the proclamation signing last Friday, declaring Sept. 23 to 29 as Child Passenger Safety Week. Sept. 29 was also declared National Seat Check Saturday. JON PEREZ

DPS to intensify safety campaign

Margarita Camacho from the Department of Public Safety-Highway Safety Office said they intend to intensify their road safety campaign and other programs.

This came soon after Gov. Ralph DLG Torres signed a proclamation last Friday, declaring Sept. 23 to 29 as Child Passenger Safety Week. Sept. 29 was also declared National Seat Check Saturday. DPS officers are expected to do random car seat safety checks.

Camacho said accidents related to child safety seats enforcement are not a big problem in the CNMI as the public is known to obey regulations. "Nationwide, though it increased from 2015 to 2016," she said.

U.S. statistics show an average of two children under 13 years of age die every day from car crashes, despite being in vehicles that have the correctly installed car seats The number rose by 8 percent from 2015.

She said that car crashes are totally avoidable. "DUI is very big for us, especially during the holiday period. We also have distracted driving, pedestrian, and motorcycle safety. All of these programs are under NHTSA and we use all of our efforts to save lives and prevent serious injuries," said Camacho.

She added that the penalty for not wearing a seatbelt, if caught, is only $25. "We're hoping the Legislature could increase it a bit because the penalty for non-use of a child restraint is $250." ***(Jon Perez)***

CHILDREN'S MENTAL HEALTH MATTERS

HALI' INAGUAIYA - SYSTEMS OF CARE

DID YOU KNOW...

- 20% of adolescents may experience a mental health problem in any given year.
  - World Health Organization (WHO), 2003
- Stigma prevents families from seeking help. Too often families are blamed for their child's illness.
  - Substance Abuse and Mental Health Service Administration (SAMHSA)
- Mental illness in children and adolescents are real and can be effectively treated, especially when identified and treated early.
  - World Health Organization (WHO), 2018

FOR MORE INFORMATION

SYSTEMS OF CARE IS HERE

- As a coordinated network of community-based services and support for children, youth and their families with or at risk of emotional and behavioral challenges
- To foster partnerships with families to improve mental health outcomes for children and youth.

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- Wraparound Process

Community Guidance Center - Systems of Care
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Visit our office located at: San Antonio Clinic (former CHCC Dispensary)
Funded by: SAMHSA Children Mental Health Initiative - Systems of Care

Winter's coming! MVA targets chilly NE China

Winter is fast approaching in northeast China, and the Marianas Visitors Authority is already enticing residents from the region to the Marianas with images of sun-kissed beaches, brilliant blue skies, and warm tropical lagoons.

The MVA held its first Marianas road shows targeting the northeast region on Sept 11-13, 2018, in the cities of Shenyang, Changchun, and Harbin, the latter also famously known as the "Ice City."

"Northeastern China is a critical source market for the Marianas, especially in winter," said MVA managing director Christopher A. Concepcion. "As we continue to expand our outreach into second-tiered cities around China, it is perfect timing to cover this region, which is one of the coldest parts of China. Who wouldn't want to escape to paradise when it's almost too cold to even go outside? Our message was well-received by tourism professionals we met with, and we anticipate to continue to have solid arrivals from China, which at this time comprises 40 percent of total visitor arrivals to the Marianas."

The Marianas road show allows the MVA and its tourism partners to gather travel agencies and other partners for a focused session featuring Tinian, Rota, and Saipan. Over 300 representatives from local travel agencies joined the recent round of shows, which included presentations and B2B sessions by IT&E, Micronesian Resort Group, Saipan Ocean View Hotel, Impression Tour, Saipan Skydive, Furasato Restaurant. Key charter and airline companies including Century Tours, Shenzhen Professional International Travel Service, Asiana Airlines, TDI and Charm Saipan joined the event, which was also supported by Hyatt Regency Saipan, Fiesta Resort & Spa Saipan, Grandvrio Resort Saipan, Saipan World Resort, Kanoa Resort, Saipan Submarine, and 360 Revolving Restaurant.

Taylor Moore, the principal commercial officer of U.S. Consulate in Shenyang, delivered remarks at the road shows. Local media including Liaoning Travel Radio, Jilin TV, and Harbin TV reported on the events.

The Marianas road show in Shenyang, China, on Sept.11, 2018, allows the Marianas Visitors Authority and its tourism partners to promote the islands to travel agents, media, other industry representatives, and the public. ***(MVA)***

CCC to seek clarification on how pot will impact govt drug policies

By ERWIN ENCINARES
erwin_encinares@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

The Commonwealth Casino Commission is seeking clarification on how cannabis affects the drug-free policies of the government as it pertains to the commission and possibly the casino.

Commission executive director Edward Deleon Guerrero said Monday that he is also looking to clarify with the Office of Personnel Management how the CNMI drug policy is affected by the recent enactment of Public Law 20-66, which legalizes medicinal and recreational use of marijuana in the CNMI.

» Fears possible money laundering

Deleon Guerrero pointed out that the CNMI has a no drug-use policy. What he wants clarified is the question: "Since the [governor signed the cannabis bill]…how would that affect the pre-employment of the government workforce?"

Deleon Guerrero noted that the U.S. Drug Enforcement Agency still considers cannabis to be a Schedule I drug, alongside heroine, ecstasy, and LSD.

"We also regulate Imperial Pacific International (CNMI) LLC. If the government says that we are…going to [legalize] marijuana, then the issue that I need to know before the commission is if we exempt CCC employees, are we going to exempt IPI employees too?" Deleon Guerrero asked.

CCC chair Juan Sablan noted that they are following the Las Vegas model of casino oversight, which prohibits drug use.

"…It is prohibited by federal law. We are following the Las Vegas model, which prohibits drugs inside [the casino]," he said, adding that the legalization of cannabis and its influence on current policies should be properly studied.

"We have not taken any official position pending a review from OPM on how we would deal with the government's drug policy," Deleon Guerrero said.

He fears that money laundering could be an issue. Money laundering is a federal crime involving the "cleaning" of "dirty money," or money obtained through illegal means.

Deleon Guerrero believes that there may be some problems in the future if the casino does business with individuals involved with the anticipated cannabis industry in the Marianas.

"…Part of Title 31 of the Bank Secrecy Bank, which anti-money laundering provisions are included in, is knowing the source of revenue. Federally speaking, if it is a marijuana-sourced revenue, it is unlawful revenue. If you walk into a casino you are mandated to report a certain amount of cash," he said.

BPL ATTENDS MEETING CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Members of the CNMI Board of Professional Licensing attended the National Council of Examiners for Engineers and Surveying at its 2018 annual meeting in August in Scottsdale, Arizona. From left, NMI board member Greg Q. Castro; NCEES exiting president Patrick Tami; NMI board chair Roy P. Reyes; new NCEES president James Purcell; and NMI BPL executive director Esther S. Fleming.

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*2018 HR-V Retail price $23,995 with 20% down. 3% APR at 60 payments of $344.93 or $159.20 per paycheck at 26 pay periods per year on approved credit. Total deferred $20,695.80.

Indonesian teen rescued after drifting 49 days at sea

JAKARTA, Indonesia (AP)— An Indonesian teenager who survived 49 days adrift at sea after the wooden fish trap he was employed to mind slipped its moorings says he ran out of food within a week and survived on fish and seawater he squeezed from his clothing.

Aldi Novel Adilang told The Associated Press on Monday that he turned on a lamp every time he sighted another ship and can't remember how many passed by "unaware of my ordeal."

The Indonesian Consulate in Osaka, Japan, said the 18-year-old was rescued by a Panamanian-flagged vessel off Guam on Aug. 31, about 1,200 miles (1,920 kilometers) from his original location, and returned to Indonesia with officials earlier this month.

He was employed since age 16 in the one of the world's loneliest jobs: lamp lighter on a rompong — a wooden raft with a hut on top that's lit at night to attract fish — moored about 125 kilometers (78 miles) off the coast of North Sulawesi.

The coastline is not visible from the fishing rafts and the numerous *rompong* are miles apart, said Adilang's mother, Net Kahiking. Supplies including food and fuel for a generator are dropped off about once a week. The minders, who earn $130 a month, communicate with fishing boats by hand-held radio.

"I was on the raft for one month and 18 days. My food ran out after the first week," said Adilang. When it didn't rain for days, "I had to soak my clothes in the sea, then I squeezed and drank the water."

The boy's father, Alfian Adilang, said the family is overjoyed at his return but angry with his employer. It was the third time the teen's raft had drifted. The previous two times it had been rescued by the owner's ship, the boy said.

The rafts are anchored with ropes and Aldi Adilang said strong friction caused them to break.

"I thought I will never meet my parents again, so I just prayed every day," he said.

Adilang's portable radio, known as a handy-talky or HT in Indonesia, would prove to be a lifesaver.

"It was early morning on Aug. 31 when I saw the ship and I lighted up the lamp and shouted 'help' using the HT," he said.

"The ship had passed about one mile but then it turned to me. Might be because I used the English word," he said. "Then they talked on the HT."

The MV *Arpeggio*, which rescued Adilang off Guam, contacted the Indonesian mission in Japan when it docked in Tokuyama and officials from the Osaka consulate collected him on Sept. 6, the consulate said in a statement. He returned to Indonesia on Sept. 8.

Adilang, who is the youngest son of four siblings, said he no longer wants to work on a *rompong*.

In this undated photo released by Indonesian Consulate General in Osaka, 18-year-old Aldi Novel Adilang sits on the deck of a Panamanian-flagged vessel, MV Arpeggio after being rescued in the waters near Guam.

AP

Federal grant funds seen to cut power costs

After three years, a federally funded project that will lower the cost of electricity for 82 households in Koblerville and Garapan received its final inspection last Thursday. The houses are the property of the Northern Marianas Housing Corp.

Delegate Gregorio Kilili C. Sablan (Ind-MP) has worked as go-between with Pacific Wind and Solar, the local company that applied for the $1.3-million grant, and the U.S. Department of Agriculture's Rural Utility Services, which manages the federal program.

Each of the 3.2-kilowatt systems installed on the roof of the affected homes includes 10 commercial grade solar panels, an inverter to convert DC to AC for residential use, cabling, stainless steel conduit, and safety disconnects. The units have 20-year warranties and are expected to reduce electricity costs for a typical household to zero, once the Commonwealth Utilities Corp. installs net-metering devices at each home. ***(PR)***

Ike Santos, right, from the Commonwealth Department of Public Works, made the final inspection on Thursday of the $1.3-million federal grant project that will lower electricity costs for 82 families in Koblerville and Garapan. Engineer James Thomas, left, of Pacific Wind and Solar, briefed congressional outreach coordinator Tina Sablan on the how the rooftop solar systems work. Pacific Wind won the High Energy Cost Rural Communities grant from the U.S. Department of Agriculture in 2015 and the Marianas congressional office has helped shepherd the project along over the last three years.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

COMMONWEALTH OF THE NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS
HAZARD MITIGATION GRANT PROGRAM, DR-4235-MP
OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR
Tel: (670) 664-2374 | Fax: (670) 664-2408 | Caller Box 10007, Saipan, MP 96950

INVITATION TO BID
ITB18-GOV-131

Supply and Installation of Typhoon Shutters for the Kagman Community Center

Governor Ralph DLG. Torres and Lt. Governor Victor B. Hocog, through the Hazard Mitigation Grant Program (HMGP) Office are soliciting sealed bids for supply and installation of typhoon shutters for the Kagman Community Center, Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands (CNMI).

The project package will be available on September 26, 2018 at the Office of Management & Budget, Office of the Governor, Juan A. Sablan Administration Building in Capitol Hill, Saipan. A $25.00 non-refundable fee for the project package will be assessed. **All interested bidders are required to include an Insurer Certification Clearance (ICC) in their bid packages in order to bid on this project. The ICC should be obtained at the Department of Commerce, Office of the Insurance Commissioner (OIC) on Capitol Hill.**

Bidding procedures shall be in full compliance with the CNMI Procurement Regulations, as revised through May 24, 2001 and with the Northern Mariana Islands Administrative Code (NMIAC) §70-30-3-725 Gratuities and Kickbacks and §70.30.3-730 Prohibition Against Contingent Fees. All wage rates for employees performing the work, labor and services on this project shall be paid at the current U.S. prevailing wage rates established for the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands.

There will be a pre-bid conference for this project on Wednesday, October 10, 2018, 10:00 am ChST at the Kagman Community Center, Kagman Saipan. Questions concerning this project shall be directed to Antonette DLG. Norita in writing by e-mail: anorita.hm@gmail.com, on or before October 12, 2018 to the Office of Management & Budget, Office of the Governor, Juan A. Sablan Administration Building, Capitol Hill, Saipan, or fax (670) 664-2408. All responses to inquiries will be shared with all prospective bidders.

Sealed bids must be marked *ITB18-GOV-131 Supply and Installation of Typhoon Shutters for the Kagman Community Center, Saipan.* For bidders within the CNMI, an original and two copies of sealed bids must be submitted to the Director of Procurement and Supply located at the former Emergency Management Office, Building No. 1301, Ascencion Drive, Capitol Hill on Saipan no later than **9:00 a.m. ChST October 22, 2018.** Bidders located outside of the CNMI may obtain an additional seven (7) working days for receipt of their bids by submitting a Notice of Intent to Bid. Notices of Intent to Bid must be received by the Director of Procurement & Supply no later than 9:00 a.m. ChST October 22, 2018 and must be transmitted via facsimile to (670) 664-1515, or via e-mail to procurement@cnmidof.net. For bidders located outside the CNMI, an original and two copies of sealed bids must be postmarked by the U.S. Postal Service or the official government postal service of a foreign country no later than October 22, 2018 and the bid documents must be received no later than October 31, 2018. Note that failure to submit the required number of copies may be cause for rejection of a bid.

Bids will be publicly open and read at the Division of Procurement and Supply located at the former Emergency Management Office, Building No. 1301, Ascencion Drive, Capitol Hill on Saipan at *10:00 a.m. ChST October 31, 2018.* However, if no notices of intent to bid are received from bidders outside the CNMI, bids will be open at *10:00 a.m. ChST October 22, 2018.*

For bids greater than Twenty-Five Thousand Dollars ($25,000.00) a bid security of fifteen percent (15%) of the bid amount must accompany the bid. Bid security shall be on a bid bond, in cash, by certified check, cashier's check or other form acceptable to the government. A surety company shall hold the certificate of authority from the U.S. Secretary of the Treasury as an acceptable surety or other surety acceptable to the Attorney General. Checks must be made payable to the CNMI Treasurer, with the name of the bidder and a notation on the face of the check: "Credit Account No. 44660". If a bid bond is submitted it must be accompanied by an Insurer Clearance Certification (ICC).

The bidder submitting the lowest responsive bid will be subject to a responsibility determination in conformance with the CNMI Procurement Regulations Section 70-30.3-245. The responsible bidder submitting the lowest responsive bid will be awarded a contract with the CNMI Government and will be required to deliver Performance and Payment bonds, each equal to 100% of the contract price for contracts greater than $25,000.00.

Prior to the execution of the contract, the selected contractor shall submit:
a) A current license from the bonding company showing that it has authority to issue bond in the CNMI, and
b) A certification from the bonding company that the unencumbered value of its assets (exclusive of all outstanding commitments on other bond obligations) exceeds the penal amount of each bond.

A contractor submitting an unacceptable payment or performance bond may be permitted a reasonable time, as determined by the P&S Director, to substitute an acceptable bond prior to executing a contract. Acceptable assets are only:
1) Cash
2) US Government Securities
3) Stocks and Bonds traded on US Security Exchange
4) Real Property owned in fee simple in US; and
5) Irrevocable Letters of Credit

Performance time for completion of this project is One Hundred Twenty (120) calendar days upon issuance of Notice to Proceed. The daily amount of liquidated damages shall be two percent (2%) of the contract price divided by 120 calendar days, the contract time and will be accessed as delays beyond the established completion date.

All bid documents received shall become the sole property of the CNMI Government. The Government reserves the right to reject any or all bids and to waive any imperfection in a bid proposal that does not affect the elements of price, quantity, and delivery of the bid, in the best interest of the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands.

Virginia C. Villagomez
Governor's Authorized Representative

Herman S. Sablan, Director
CNMI Procurement & Supply

COMMONWEALTH OF THE NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS
HAZARD MITIGATION GRANT PROGRAM, DR-4235-MP
OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR
Tel: (670) 664-2374 | Fax: (670) 664-2408 | Caller Box 10007, Saipan, MP 96950

REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS
RFP18-GOV-132

Supply and Installation of Generator Set, Generator House and Water Pumps – Kagman Community Center

Governor Ralph DLG. Torres and Lt. Governor Victor B. Hocog, through the CNMI Hazard Mitigation Grant Program (HMGP), (collectively, "Commonwealth") are soliciting sealed proposals from qualified contractors to supply and install a generator set complete with an Automatic Transfer Switch, a generator house and water pumps for the Kagman Community Center on Saipan, Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands (CNMI).

Proposal procedures shall be in full compliance with the CNMI Procurement Regulations, currently in effect, and with the Northern Mariana Islands Administrative Code (NMIAC) §70-30-3-725 Gratuities and Kickbacks and §70.30.3-730 Prohibition Against Contingent Fees. Public Law 15-95 Local Preference Act, as amended by Public Law 15-118 does not apply to this federally funded project. All wage rates for employees performing the work, labor and services on this project shall be paid at the current U.S. prevailing wage rates established for the CNMI.

The project package will be available for pick up beginning September 26, 2018 at the Office of the Governor, Office of Management and Budget, Juan A. Sablan Administration Building in Capitol Hill, Saipan. A pre-proposal meeting regarding this project will be held at 10:00 a.m. on October 10, 2018 at the Kagman Community Center, Kagman Saipan.

Questions about this request for proposal shall be addressed to the HMGP Office attn.: Antonette DLG. Norita, in writing via e-mail: anorita.hm@gmail.com or facsimile (670) 664-2408 no later than 4:00 p.m., ChST, October 12, 2018.

The total proposal length shall not exceed 15 pages in length. A contractor that submits a proposal as a prime contractor cannot also submit as a subcontractor on another proposal. However, as a subcontractor, a company may be included in multiple proposals by different contractors.

Proposals will be evaluated and scored based on the following criteria:

1.	Qualifications and experience on similar projects	40%
2.	Work load and resources to accomplish work	10%
3.	Project Approach & Schedule	20%
4.	Cost	30%

Performance time for completion of this project is 240 calendar days upon issuance of notice to proceed. The daily amount of liquidated damages shall be two percent (2%) of the contract price divided by 240 calendar days, the contract price and will be assessed as delays beyond the established completion date.

Discussions shall be conducted with the top 3 ranked contractors. After a selection is made, negotiations will be conducted with the highest qualified contractor to determine the final fair and reasonable price of the contract for the work to be performed. The successful proposers will be subjected to a responsibility and responsiveness determination in compliance with Section 3-301 of the CNMI Procurement Regulations.

Proposals must be sealed and marked **RFP18-GOV-132 Supply and Installation of Generator System, Generator House and Water Pumps – Kagman Community Center.** For proposers within the CNMI, one original and three (3) copies of the proposals must be submitted to the Director of Procurement and Supply located at the former Emergency Management Office, Building No. 1301, Ascencion Drive, Capitol Hill on Saipan no later than 10:00 a.m., ChST, October 24, 2018. Proposers located outside the CNMI may obtain an additional seven (7) working days for receipt of their proposal by submitting a Notice of intent to propose. Notices of intent to propose must be received by the Director of Procurement and Supply no later than 10:00 a.m., ChST, October 24, 2018 and may be transmitted via facsimile to (670) 664-1515, or via e-mail to procurement@cnmidof.net

For proposers located outside the CNMI, one original and three (3) copies of the sealed proposals must be postmarked by the U.S. Postal service or the official government postal service of a foreign country no later than, October 24, 2018 and must be received by the Director of Procurement and Supply no later than November 02, 2018. Failure to submit the required number of copies of the proposal may be cause for rejection of a proposal.

BREACH OF ETHICAL STANDARDS

(To be part of Solicitation for Quotes, ITBs and RFPs)

- Gratuities. It shall be a breach of ethical standards for any person to offer, give or agree to give any employee or former employee, or for any employee or former employee to solicit, demand, accept or agree to accept from another person, a gratuity or an offer of employment in connection with any decision, approval, disapproval, recommendation, preparation of any part of a program requirement or a purchase request, influencing the content of any specification or procurement standard, rendering of advice, investigation, auditing or in any other advisory capacity in any proceeding or application, request for ruling, determination, claim or controversy, or other particular matter, pertaining to any program requirement or a contract or subcontract or to any solicitation or proposal therefore. NMIAC Section 70-30.3-725(a).
- Kickbacks. It shall be a breach of ethical standards for any payment, gratuity or offer of employment to be made by or on behalf of a subcontractor under a contract to the prime contractor or higher tier subcontractor or any person associated therewith as an inducement for the award of subcontractor or order. NMIAC Section 70-30.3-725(b)
- Contingent Fees. It shall be a breach of ethical standards for a person to be retained, or to retain a person, to solicit or secure government contracts upon an agreement or understanding for a commission, percentage, brokerage or contingent fee, except for retention of bona fide employees or bona fide established commercial selling agencies for the purpose of securing business. NMIAC Section 70-30.3-730.

The Commonwealth reserves the right to reject any or all proposals and to waive any imperfection in any proposal if, in its opinion to do so would be in the best interests of the CNMI government. All proposals shall become the property of the CNMI government.

Virginia C. Villagomez
Governor's Authorized Representative

Herman S. Sablan
Director of Procurement and Supply

McDonald's donates $5K for Club 200 fundraiser

By ERWIN ENCINARES
erwin_encinares@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

ERWIN ENCINARES

McDonald's Saipan executive secretary Mable Ayuyu, third from left, presented Monday a donation check to American Red Cross NMI chapter executive director John Hirsh, center.

McDonald's Saipan donated Monday to the American Red Cross-NMI Chapter for its Club 200 fundraiser party, which will take place on Oct. 13, a Saturday, at the Fiesta Resort & Spa Saipan.

"[McDonald's Saipan] has been supporting everything that we have been doing. I think they believe in our mission. They've seen firsthand the kind of things we are doing," said ARC executive director John Hirsh during the donation presentation.

Club 200 is one of two annual Red Cross fundraisers that collects funding for their operations as well as supports the charitable organization. The other is the annual Red Cross Walkathon.

According to McDonald's Saipan executive secretary Mable Ayuyu, the donation is the company's way of supporting the organization's cause.

"To us, they are really the champions of the community. They go out there…and sacrifice a lot of family time to fly to Rota or fly to Tinian to help those in need around the clock," said Ayuyu. "We recognize that and we would continue to support the American Red Cross-NMI Chapter so long as they are in existence."

Hirsh noted that McDonald's Saipan has been a staunch supported of the organization for almost 20 years.

"Every year we [reach out] to them and every year they give us support," said Hirsh. "We are very grateful to their leadership and all their employees who have helped us over the years."

While this may only be the 26th Club 200 fundraiser of the local Red Cross, this year is also the 40th anniversary of the NMI Chapter, Hirsh said. In line with that, there would be plenty of "surprises" at the Club 200 party.

"Come out, buy a ticket, and we are encouraging everyone in the community to come and support this event," he said.

The American Red Cross-NMI Chapter depends on the generosity of individuals and businesses here in the CNMI to fulfill its disaster relief mission. Over the past two weeks Red Cross volunteers have provided emergency supplies and immediate financial assistance to those most heavily impacted by Typhoon Mangkhut.

"Working with our partners, we moved quickly to help those most impacted, said Jack Amirez, a local Chapter caseworker. "We help everyone with urgent needs regardless of their background or citizenship."

J.D. Tenorio, the ARC disaster program manager, said the Red Cross provided over $100,000 worth of supplies and financial assistance in just a matter of days after Mangkhut

For more information about donating to the Red Cross or volunteering, contact the Chapter office at 234-3459.

H.O.M.E. VISITING PROGRAM

(Healthy Outcomes for Maternal and Early Childhood)

What is the H.O.M.E. Visiting Programs?

The H.O.M.E. Visiting Programs is a free, voluntary in-home service that can support you through the joys and challenges of pregnancy and parenting. The H.O.M.E. Visiting Program supports moms, dad, care-givers, and their families through a range of weekly to quarterly home visits with an assigned Family Partner Advocate (FPA).

What services are provided?

Family Partner Advocates will support and assist you in the following:

- Prenatal Care Planning and Education
- What to expect as your child is growing
- Caring for you and your baby's needs
- Home Safety Measures
- Infant Massage
- Developmental Screening & Activities
- Job Search
- Continuing your education
- Community resources your family may benefit from

How can I qualify?

- A resident of Saipan, Tinian or Rota
- Enrolled Prenatally or
- With a child no older than 3 months of age
- Standardized screening tool will be used to identify families who are eligible to enroll and benefit from the program

For more information, please call (670)664-8702
or via email at hvpcnmi@gmail.com

Healthy Families CNMI
Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands

The project is supported by the Health Resources and Services Administration (HRSA) of the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) under grant number X02MC28239, Affordable Care Act (ACA) Maternal, Infant and Early Childhood Home Visiting Program grant.

Opinion

Hafa Adai!
Saipan Tribune
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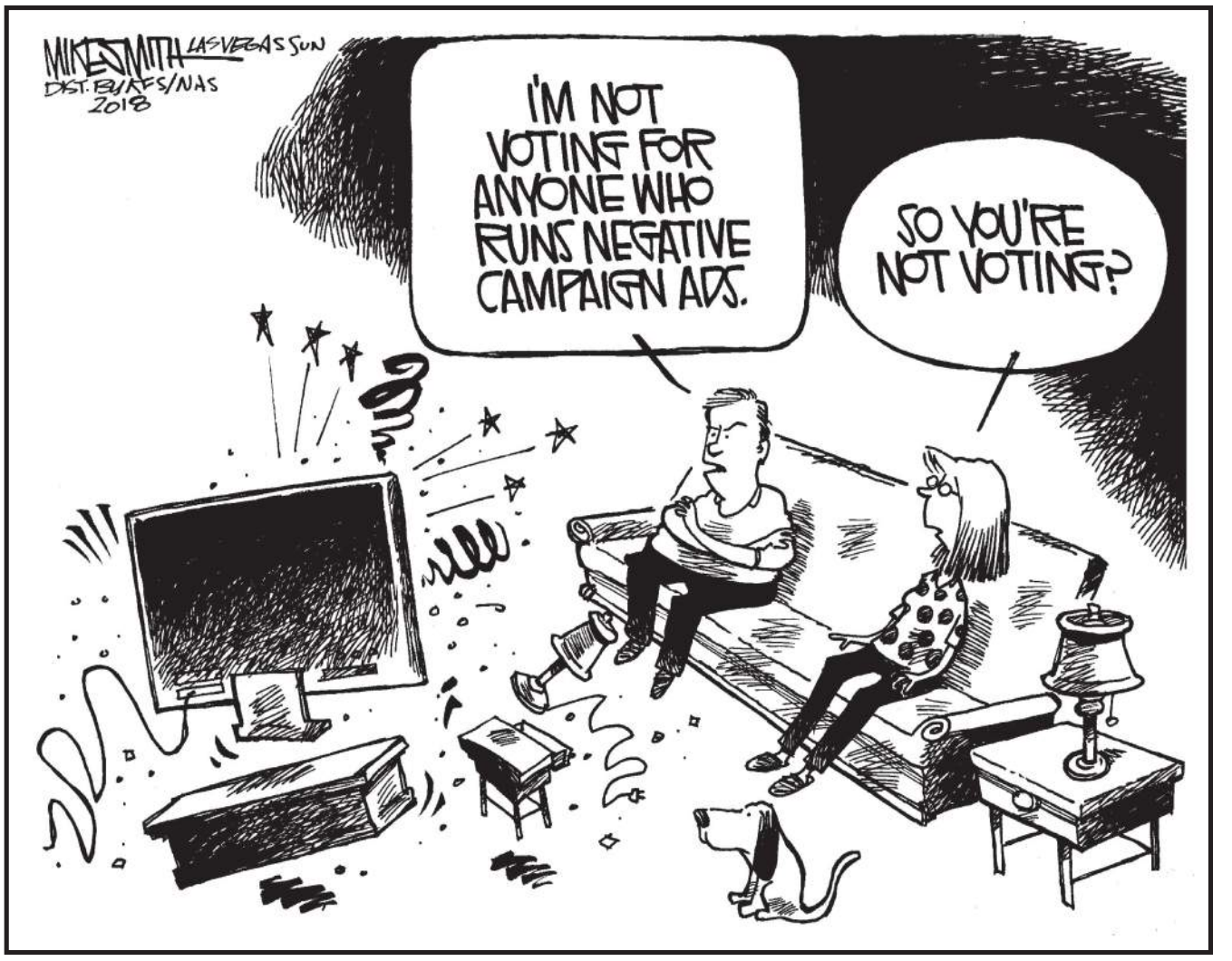

EDITORIAL

Help addicts, but get answers, too

As deaths stemming from opioid addiction on Long Island have reached unprecedented levels, law enforcement officials and health professionals have tried practically everything they can think of to stem the epidemic.

About 600 people died from drug overdoses on Long Island last year, not because society isn't reacting, but because the problem is so intractable. Once hooked, addicts find that quitting heroin and prescription painkillers is terribly difficult with treatment, and practically impossible without it. And the criminal justice system is ill-equipped to deal with people whose nonviolent, low-level misdeeds, such as drug possession and petty theft, are criminal but whose primary victims are usually themselves, and whose deepest offense is often breaking the hearts of loved ones.

Now Suffolk County has rolled out one more program to try to make a difference. Nonviolent drug offenders with little or no criminal record are being offered addiction treatment that, if they participate for 90 days, would erase pending criminal charges. The program doesn't replace Suffolk's Drug Treatment Court, where offenders must enter a guilty plea before they can enter treatment, and must participate for 12 or 18 months.

Defense attorneys say Drug Treatment Court remains the right option for some addicts who stand accused; however, another choice is needed because many defendants won't plead guilty, commit to lengthy programs or wait for the legal process to play out just to get to treatment. That's particularly true when the jail sentences they would receive for a guilty plea are shorter than the rehabilitation time they'd have to commit to. And if they fail to successfully complete the diversion program, they are right back to facing those sentences.

Suffolk's new program is called Comprehensive Addiction Recovery Education, or CARE. It is modeled on a similar initiative the Bronx district attorney's office launched late last year. Nassau County also offers a variety of interventions that can lead to treatment rather than incarceration for addiction-related crimes.

All these efforts are worthy, but one of their most important goals at this point ought to be to compile data and detailed follow-up of participants to help show what works to keep people sober.

Is it intervention that erases charges and prevents convictions, or intervention that follows a guilty plea or conviction, when the punishment can be stayed and the record erased if treatment is completed? Does a 90-day commitment to a program work, or are 12 or 18 months needed? Which of the state-certified facilities have succeeded in getting people sober, keeping them sober and why? Is medically assisted treatment the answer, or 12-step programs, or a combination of the two? Does methadone work better than suboxone or Vivitrol? Do clients do better when they pick the type of treatment that resonates with them, or is that choosing irrelevant or even counterproductive?

Criminal justice and addiction treatment cost a lot of money, and addiction destroys a lot of lives. It's good to create more options, but we need to find out what works, too, so we can go from trying everything to doing the right thing.

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America needs to revive the American dream of homeownership

By CONOR SEN
Bloomberg News

Conor Sen is a Bloomberg Opinion *columnist. He is a portfolio manager for New River Investments in Atlanta and has been a contributor to the* Atlantic and Business Insider.

By NOAH SMITH
Bloomberg View

Noah Smith is a Bloomberg Opinion *columnist. He was an assistant professor of finance at Stony Brook University, and he blogs at Noahpinion.*

The idea of helping the lower-middle class by using the federal government to encourage homeownership is, to put it mildly, out of favor. There's a popular narrative that the housing bubble of the 2000s—and, by extension, the financial crisis and the Great Recession—were caused by the government making or encouraging cheap loans to low-income Americans. That narrative is a myth—the leading cause of the bubble was private banks making bad loans, mostly to speculators rather than to low-income owner-occupants. But the myth is unlikely to die, meaning that it will be an uphill battle to convince recession-scarred Americans to support the idea of expanding homeownership.

That's a shame, because for all its drawbacks, homeownership is still a crucial source of wealth for everyone who isn't rich.

There are big obstacles to building wealth for many Americans. Stocks—the obvious alternative to real estate—can be extremely volatile, and lower-middle class people can't afford to run the risk of having their assets wiped out. Stocks are also difficult to understand; people who try to invest their own money tend to do very badly, and people who use professional managers to invest for them tend to pay large fees that swamp their returns. This keeps low-income people out of the market.

Housing certainly has its own disadvantages—it's undiversified, and it can tie people to the economic fortunes of a specific location. But despite the occasional market downturns, housing tends to be a pretty good long-run investment. If lower-middle class wealth is to be rebuilt without resorting to something like a social wealth fund, there are few better alternatives to housing. And lower-middle class wealth desperately needs rebuilding.

Housing also has benefits that can't be counted in dollars. Although housing is an important part of the economy and the largest financial asset of most homeowners, it's also a form of social equity. Good school districts tend to be in communities full of single-family homes with little rental housing, and homeowners often are more involved in local government than renters, giving them the power to structure their communities to suit their interests. Because local control over schools and land use is so entrenched in American society, it will be difficult to give renters anything close to equal opportunity in America without giving them a path toward homeownership.

Homeownership can also encourage low-income people to build more wealth on their own. Monthly mortgage payments can act as a behavioral nudge that prompts people to save more each month. And homeowners have an incentive to maintain their dwellings, which both improves the quality of the housing stock and helps teach people the basic skills of property management.

If the government is to expand homeownership, it should do so in a way that avoids the mistakes of the bubble period. Previous policies often made it easier for lower-income Americans to borrow money in order to buy houses. But this loaded them up with debt and put them at risk of default—similar to government encouragement of student loans. Instead of repeating this mistake, the government should give low-income grants to put equity into homes.

Several programs like this already exist. The Department of Housing and Urban Development allows families that qualify for housing vouchers in some areas to use them to help purchase homes and pay ownership expenses instead. First-time homebuyers are eligible for a tax credit. HUD also used to administer the AmeriDream down-payment assistance program, but the policy never reached many people and was discontinued in 2008.

These programs, or similar ones, would form the foundation of a broader policy to encourage lower-middle class homeown-

See AMERICA on Next Page

EDITORIAL POLICY Letters to the editor must include the NAME, VILLAGE ADDRESS, and CONTACT NUMBER of the contributor. Letters that do not have these information will immediately be trashed. Contributions consisting of 500 words or less have more chances of getting published. The *Saipan Tribune* reserves the right to publish a contribution or not; the right to edit submissions for length, accuracy, and clarity; and the right to publish and distribute contributions in print, electronic, or other media formats. Submissions may be sent via snail mail to the 2nd Floor, JP Center, Beach Road, Garapan, Saipan, 96950; fax (670) 235-3740; e-mail to editor@saipantribune.com; or through our website at www.saipantribune.com.

Inipus silensiu

Sige man-afaisen haf` na mampus silensiu i tanu`. Inipus katma maseha manu na soñgsuñg. Ni un` hagun troñku kalalamten. Silensiu!

I asuntu pot pinadesin baratun suetdu ni pumalolopu` manadan familia guine. Estague` mina mampus silensiu i tanu` punta pot punta gi enteru atkipelagu.

Kase guaha 15-mit na empleau man-mamatmus gi suetdun popble (poverty). Makat na tiru gi bandan obligasion familia.

Ha inklusu apas guma`, utilidat, neñkanu`, hospitat, difirientes insurans (insurance) yan nesessidat famaguon ni man-eskuekeula. Lau klaru na tinanahuñg i monedan familia para nesessidat niha.

Yangin in` suma enteru gastun familia gi mes ileghu na taya` sopbla para otru nesessidat siha. Estague` mina` man-mamatkilu i los probes pot te`ug na chinatsagan halum guma`.

Gi halum katman diskuidu haf` mohon planun man-sabiun hegsu` I Deni` para uma-adelanta este na chinatsaga?

Asuntu: Namanman dos tautau ni ma-utut patte gi tatautau niha pot sinaulag bakteria ni chumochochu sensin tautau. Ginen mata` guihan yan inetin hanum sadog tutuhoña este na chenot.

■■■

Mampus diskalentau kinalamten katolisismu entalu` Roma, Pennsylvania yan Guahan pot kehan abusun famaguon ni mamale`. Kumu kilisyanu bai fan asi`i lau debi umafana` keha siha gi kotte dibuenamenti.

■■■

Uchan, dilubiu yan guafen dañkulu kumukoti elmundu gi mapus na semana. California mit pot mit hektarias gi halum tano`ña kimason. Iya Asia mauleg na tanu` mansulun ginen i fina` hogsu` ya ha tampe papa` siuda siha. Lamegai mandimalas ginen este na ira.

■■■

Nachatsaga na guaha 14-mit na empleau gumagana suetdun popble (poverty income). Haf` machogue ni man-sabiun i hegsu` para u fan ma-ayuda este siha na los probes?

Mafuegun kabron i 80 pot sientu na hatsadan suetdun niha. Binechu na pininu` ni kotte pot timatatiye i ginagagau na areglun konstitusion.

Dios mihu na higadun representante manatachu pot siha mismu ti pot interes publiku. Kase guine na Nobiembre ta hatsa i 80 hulu` esta i 100 ya ta bali kada unu huyuñg sin ditension.

Manadan empleau suetdun popble estau niha ya in` lañgag subidan betsan miyu finenina? Dios mihu! Tana` setbi eskoban 100 pot sientu na Nobiembre!

Espirituat: I linala` espirituat megai besis ta letki `sino disattendi gi rimulinun diariu na finapos-ta. Lau repara sa` guaha na `nos kuantus biahe limpiu hau lau dispues un` fana` te`ug na chinatsaga ni ti komprendiyun.

Tinetpihau ni esperansa gueku gi halum korason yan hinasso-mu. Haf` na taiguine este? Malefa hau ti un` yuti` añklan linala`mu espirituat ni gumugu`ot fitme sahyan-mu gi halum napun lina`la`.

Saga un` ratu ya unna` tunug añklamu para siña u safu botimu gi halum maseha hafa na mattiru. Guiya este i hufanana`an "luseru", puti`un linala`hu ni umesgagaihon-yu` diariu deste ke manana Si Yuus esta i oran deskansu.

Pasensiaye ya unna` guaha tiempu guine na patte gi ha`animu pot para un` konsige katma yan pas ha`animu.

Señat: Man-matayu` guihe na oga`an. Huna` klaru matahu antes de bai falag i kemun `nai huli`e buttun Santa Maria mañila`, kahulu` dididi`, dispues tumunug gi sagaña. Hu ta`lun muna` klaru fan-atanhu para baina` seguru na manmata-yu` kabales. Mañila` ta`lu i buttun Santa Maria, kahulu`, dispues tumunug.

Tres oras dispues malagnus anunsiu na sinaulag iya Kobe` giya Japon un` dañkulun linau. Megai destrosiu yan mandimalas guihe na linau. Man-na`eyu` mit grasias na ti hita man-dinanche nu ayu na ira. Konsidera i destrosiu yan dinimalas `an hita `nai pañgpañg ayu na linau.

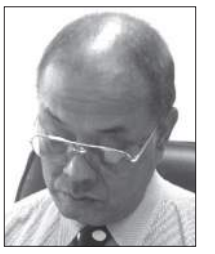
I umestototba-yu` i hu huhuñgug un` eku gi chagu`. Haf` `ste signifikasioña? Kau guaha ira ni dañkulu para u fatoigue hit dispues? Haf` `nau na ira, pagyu pat linau? Afañielus, maila` ya gi hilu` hinimiddi tafan man-gagau para satbasion todus.

Liñguahe: Mauleg na intension programan Chamorro ni malalagnus ginen Guam gi television. Na ti liñguahe i nanan kuttura? Pues haf` na finu` Eñglis inna` sesetbi gi presentasion siha?

Na ti propiu dichu usun liñguahen natibu gi ayu siha na programa? Mauleg umata`lun ma`atan i asuntu para u guaha inaya gi intension yan implementasion programa.

Pa`gu yangin lache i hu supopone mauleg yangin guaha esplikasion manu na patte gi hu diskute `nai gaige finatsu. Maila` tafan diberas maseha pot primet biahe gi finana`guen liñguahen hila` nana-ta. Este ha` solu na karera `nai siña ta atbansa sin linetgun kabales na finana`guen finu` Chamorro.

Magoo: Ha mente amiguhu na mampus man-silensiu i kandidatun politika siha. Kau guaha minasa` gi asuntun linahyan? Haf` muna` fanfufugu hamyu? Kau i 80 pot sientu na hatsada ni dinagau huyuñg ni kotte? I taya` ayudun miyu para i mas ke 14-mit na empleau ni gumagana suetdun popble?



By JOHN S. DELROSARIO JR.
Special to the Saipan Tribune

John DelRosario Jr. is a former publisher of the Saipan Tribune *and a former secretary of the Department of Public Lands. All views expressed by the author are his/her own and do not necessarily reflect the opinion and stance of the* Saipan Tribune.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Something is fishy with Zinke

During Interior Secretary Ryan Zinke's recent trip to America Samoa, a brief discussion occurred around the fate of the Rose Atoll Marine National Monument. Zinke was caught on tape saying, "The President has made a commitment and he accepted the recommendations to make sure the monument is open for fishing."

Allowing commercial fishing in a marine national monument undermines the designation itself and will harm local fishermen. All the marine national monuments in the Pacific, from Rose Atoll, to the Papahānaumokuā Marine National Monument in Hawaii, to the Mariana Trench Marine Monument in the Mariana Islands, make allowances for local small boat fishermen. Recreational fishing and cultural indigenous fishing are already permitted and carefully managed to protect the resources and the promulgation of cultural practices for future generations. Allowing commercial fishing will mean that small boats will have to compete with the big boats inside the monument borders

Furthermore, suggestions that allowing commercial fishing in a marine national monument may boost jobs or the fishing economy are false and disputed by facts. But you don't have to take it from me—take it from the Trump administration: NOAA's National Marine Fisheries Service has announced this month that it is closing the purse seine fishery for 2018 because Pacific fishermen have already reached their quota—in September—for the entire year. This makes the fourth year in a row that fishermen have met their quotas early, sustaining their communities without having access to the four marine national monuments protected in the Pacific.

Opening the monuments to commercial fishing would render them marine monuments in name only, and defy the only protections these few, discrete areas have. Commercial fishing is one important use of the ocean, but it is not the only purpose. Even when consistent with fisheries management laws, commercial fishing affects ocean ecosystems, particularly highly vulnerable ones, such as those within monument areas.

The Trump administration knows this is a fishy and false narrative. When they come for America's marine monuments, don't let them get away with it.

Amy Kenney
National Ocean Protection CoalitionThe uncertain CW situation

The uncertain CW situation

My parents have sacrificed a lot for my family and me, from trying to put food on the table to making sure I get enough sleep for school the next day. Growing up, I haven't really been separated from them—unless, I would have a trip for one week or three days somewhere but other than that, no. One week, cannot compare to months.

One time I was left behind here on Saipan while both of my parents left for the Philippines to get their papers fixed. We weren't sure when they would come back or how long it will take. I was left behind with my older sister. Usually when I'm home or get home, she isn't around because either she is at work or school, or I'm either at dance practice or school. It wasn't easy. Trying to stay positive on my own and wondering if your parents are okay over there.

Which brings me to the issue that I truly dislike and wish more people of the CNMI would pay more attention and open their hearts to—the CW situation. To others it may not be much but for me, it takes away all I have.

Growing up, my mom and dad had jobs. We never really worried about anything. But now we fear being taken away from each other, what we would eat the next day, what are we going to do, etc.

My parents aren't U.S citizens but I am. It is difficult for them to get jobs unless this piece of paper approves it so. It has transformed the life we had, filled with peace and freedom, to one filled with fear and stress. It sucks that we cannot just allow "immigrants" to freely work for a better life for their family. It sucks that people forget sometimes they're human too and that they're just trying to help their family. It sucks that many don't realize how blessed they are to be called "U.S. citizens"; they take everything for granted.

Not only does this issue affect my family but so many of my friends' families. We wish we could give our parents, siblings, or other people "U.S citizenship" for a gift. I truly just wish we could all just leave contract workers as they are and live their life. They haven't done anything wrong but lived and served. Yet people treat them like dirt just because they are "immigrants."

I'm tired of having my parents worry about this when they shouldn't be. I'm tired of seeing my parents act like it's okay all the time when it's not. I'm tired of people focusing on marijuana or pot when there are families out there worrying about this situation. Yes, they could just make their children follow them to their home countries but it will not be easy for us. And that they want what is best for us even if it means leaving us behind.

Raina Avelino
Chinatown

AMERICA

From Page 10

ership and equity building. They would ideally be expanded to cover more areas and more people, and cover more housing costs. The increased expense could be funded by federal wealth taxes or inheritance taxes, perhaps with some contribution from local property taxes or land value taxes. This would amount to a form of direct wealth redistribution—a worthy attempt to fight the inexorably increasing wealth inequality that has caused much consternation in recent years.

But the program would need one more element to make it work—new housing construction. If low-income homebuyers use their government grants to simply bid up the prices of existing homes, the result will be a transfer of money to existing homeowners, not to new homebuyers. Again, the analogy with student loans—which allowed colleges to simply increase their tuition rather than provide more spots for prospective students—is apt.

The solution is for the government to make these grants conditional on cities building more housing units. This would be a powerful financial incentive; if a city is willing to increase density and to allow the construction of more multifamily housing, it would receive more federal money in the form of home-equity assistance. If combined with more direct incentives for dense development, would help combat the nationwide housing shortage that has persisted since the crisis:

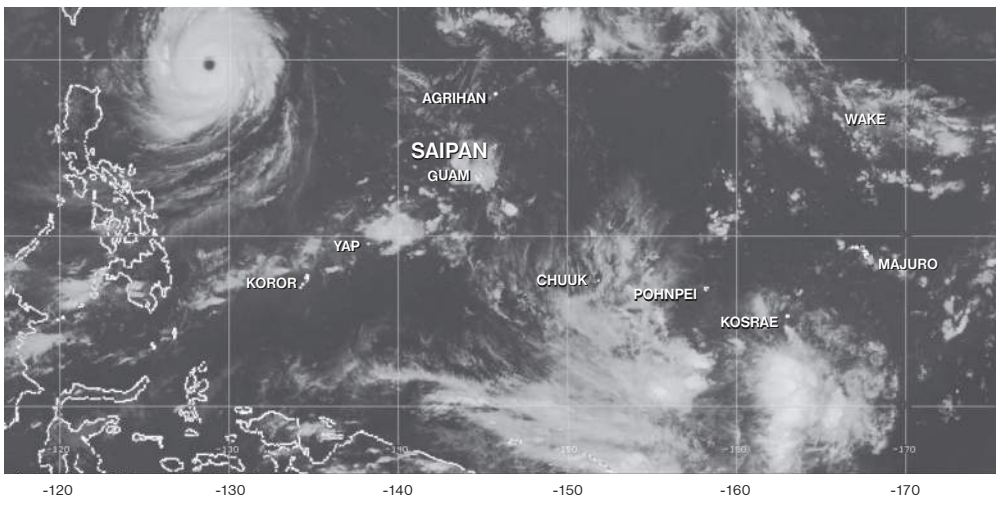
So a government homeownership program would have to look very different from the efforts of the past. Giving low-income Americans grants to buy new houses, rather than lending them money to buy old ones, would be a wiser path to rebuilding the American Dream.

The Weather

5-DAY FORECAST FOR SAIPAN AND TINIAN

TODAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY	SUNDAY
Partly cloudy with isolated showers. Southwest winds 10 to 15 mph.	Partly cloudy with isolated showers. Light and variable winds.	Partly cloudy with isolated showers.	Partly cloudy with isolated showers.	Partly cloudy with isolated showers.
▲89° ▼78°	▲89° ▼78°	▲89° ▼78°	▲89° ▼78°	▲89° ▼78°

YESTERDAY'S SATELLITE IMAGE



PICTURE TIME: 7:30 AM, TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 25, 2018
Western North Pacific between equator and 25N from 130E to 180.

Mostly cloudy skies with isolated showers and thunderstorms look to continue through tonight. Lightning remained just south of the Guam waters most of the night, but finally was seen over the southern Guam waters this morning. Latest model guidance shows moisture beginning to decrease in the mid-levels this evening, therefore, kept thunderstorms in the forecast through tonight, becoming partly cloudy with isolated showers Wednesday morning. The big story is the weak, broad circulation that is currently north of Pohnpei. The latest GFS shows rapid intensification of this circulation as it moves toward the Marianas, moving through the Rota channel as a significant tropical cyclone, while the ECMWF shows a much weaker circulation moving across Saipan. Either way, this system bears watching to see what will actually develop over the next few days. It is a little too early to be certain of anything at this point. Regardless of how this system develops, an increase in moisture is likely for the end of the week and into the weekend.

Satellite image and accompanying information are provided by the National Weather Service. For an updated weather forecast, visit the National Weather Service Guam homepage: www.prh.noaa.gov/guam/

MICRONESIA		▲ ▼ °F
Guam and Rota	Thunderstorms	86° / 78°
Palau	Thunderstorms	86° / 78°
Yap	Thunderstorms	86° / 79°
Chuuk	Thunderstorms	84° / 78°
Pohnpei	Thunderstorms	86° / 76°
Kosrae	Thunderstorms	86° / 76°
Majuro	Mostly Sunny	87° / 81°

AROUND THE GLOBE		▲ ▼ °F
Auckland	Partly Cloudy	57° / 48°
Beijing	Sunny	77° / 54°
Hong Kong	Sunny	88° / 75°
Honolulu	Partly Cloudy	87° / 75°
London	Mostly Sunny	59° / 41°
Los Angeles	Sunny	83° / 65°
Manila	Thunderstorms	88° / 79°
Melbourne	Mostly Sunny	72° / 46°
Miami	Partly Cloudy	89° / 80°
New York	Thunderstorms	82° / 64°
Osaka	Rain	73° / 63°
Paris	Sunny	77° / 52°
Busan	Windy	72° / 64°
Rome	Sunny	75° / 52°
Salem	Thunderstorms	86° / 70°
San Francisco	Sunny	69° / 53°
Seoul	Partly Cloudy	75° / 55°
Tokyo	Rain	66° / 59°
Washington, DC	Thunderstorms	85° / 65°

NMI CRIME STOPPERS
Anonymous tips can now be submitted through the following:
- Call 234-7272 (PARA) on any telephone
- *11 on any IT&E cellular phone
- Log on to the internet at www.nmicrimestoppers.net

TIDES: SAIPAN HARBOR TODAY		FEET
2:26 AM	LOW TIDE	0.47
8:12 AM	HIGH TIDE	1.88
2:38 PM	LOW TIDE	0.36
8:34 PM	HIGH TIDE	1.90

DAY	SUNRISE	SUNSET
Today	6:06 AM	6:10 PM
Thursday	6:06 AM	6:09 PM
Friday	6:06 AM	6:08 PM
Saturday	6:06 AM	6:08 PM
Sunday	6:06 AM	6:07 PM

DAY	MOONRISE	MOONSET	MOONRISE
Today	-	6:47 AM	7:08 PM
Thursday	-	7:38 AM	7:49 PM
Friday	-	8:30 AM	8:32 PM
Saturday	-	9:24 AM	9:18 PM
Sunday	-	10:21 AM	10:07 PM

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FLIGHT SCHEDULE AS OF JUNE 6, 2018

DEPARTURES

SAIPAN-GUAM (GUM)

UA117	8:45am	9:30am	Daily

SAIPAN-BUSAN (PUS)

7C3451	3:10am	6:10am	1, 7
7C3451	4:00am	7:05am	4, 5

SAIPAN-SEOUL (ICN)

TW308	2:00am	6:05am	Daily
OZ626	2:10am	6:00am	1
OZ626	2:50am	6:40am	2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7
LJ652	3:40am	7:30am	1, 4, 5, 7
7C3403	4:45am	8:30am	Daily
7C3401	4:00pm	7:45pm	Daily

SAIPAN-SHANGHAI (PVG)

3U8648	5:40am	8:40am	1, 4, 5, 7

SAIPAN-HANGZHOU (HGH)

JD396	7:30am	12:00pm	1
JD396	4:50pm	10:00pm	4

SAIPAN-GUANGZHOU (CAN)

3U8646	4:20am	7:30am	2, 6

SAIPAN-BEIJING (PEK)

MU764	1:30am	6:35am	3, 5, 7

SAIPAN-MANILA (MNL)

OZ626/701	2:10am	10:55am	1 via ICN
OZ626/701	2:50am	10:55am	2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7 via ICN
UA6394/191	4:15am	9:00am	2, 3, 6, 7 via GUM
UA6394/PR111	4:15am	8:10am	7 via GUM
UA6394/PR111	4:15am	9:20am	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6 via GUM
UA6398/183	6:05pm	9:40pm	2, 5 via GUM
UA6398/183	6:05pm	9:50pm	1, 3, 4, 6, 7 via GUM
UA6398/193	6:05pm	11:50pm	2, 5 via GUM-ROR

SAIPAN-HONG KONG (HKG)

HX077	1:50am	5:15am	1, 4
OZ626/721	2:10am	11:50am	1 via ICN
OZ626/721	2:50am	11:50am	2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7 via ICN
UO43	5:45am	8:40am	1, 3, 5, 7
UA6398/159	6:05pm	11:00pm	1, 3, 5, 6 via GUM

ARRIVALS

GUAM (GUM)-SAIPAN

UA117	7:00am	7:45am	Daily

BUSAN (PUS)-SAIPAN

7C3452	9:00pm	2:10am+1	4
7C3452	9:05pm	2:10am+1	3, 6, 7

SEOUL (ICN)-SAIPAN

7C3402	9:30am	3:00pm	Daily
OZ625	7:40pm	1:00am+1	7
TW307	7:45pm	1:00am+1	Daily
OZ625	8:20pm	1:40am+1	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6
LJ651	9:10pm	2:40am+1	3, 4, 6, 7
7C3404	10:10pm	3:40am+1	Daily

SHANGHAI (PVG)-SAIPAN

3U8647	10:20pm	4:30am+1	3, 4, 6, 7

HANGZHOU (HGH)-SAIPAN

JD395	8:25am	3:30pm	4
JD395	9:55pm	5:00am+1	7

GUANGZHOU (CAN)-SAIPAN

3U8645	7:40pm	3:00am+1	1, 5

BEIJING (PEK)-SAIPAN

MU763	4:25pm	12:30am+1	2, 4, 6

MANILA (MNL)-SAIPAN

UA182/6395	12:40am	8:05am	3, 6 via GUM
UA190/6397	9:55am	5:35pm	2, 3, 6, 7 via GUM
OZ702/625	12:25pm	1:00am+1	7 via ICN
OZ702/625	12:25pm	1:40am+1	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6 via ICN
PR110/UA6395	10:05pm	8:05am+1	Daily via GUM
UA192/6395	10:30pm	8:05am+1	2, 5 via ROR-GUM
UA184/6395	10:55pm	8:05am+1	1, 3, 4, 6, 7 via GUM

HONG KONG (HKG)-SAIPAN

OZ722/625	1:15pm	1:00am+1	7 via ICN
OZ722/625	1:15pm	1:40am+1	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6 via ICN
HX076	5:15pm	12:15am+1	3, 7
UO42	6:50pm	1:45am+1	7
UO42	9:30pm	4:25am+1	2, 4, 6
UA116/6395	11:55pm	8:05am+1	1, 3, 5, 6 via GUM

LEGEND: Days: Monday (1), Tuesday (2), Wednesday (3), Thursday (4), Friday (5), Saturday (6) and Sunday (7); 3U Sichuan Airlines, 7C Jeju Air, DL Delta Airlines, JD Beijing Capital, UO HK Express, HX HongKong Airlines, LJ Jin Air, MU China Eastern, OZ Asiana Airlines, TW t'way Air, UA United Airlines, PR PAL Express; ETD: Estimated Time of Departure; ETA: Estimated Time of Arrival. *(The* Saipan Tribune *is not responsible for any changes in the schedule.)*

STAR MARIANAS AIR, INC.

SAIPAN TO ROTA

FLIGHT #	DEPARTURE	ARRIVAL	FREQUENCY
1301	7:30AM	8:00AM	Daily
1302	11:30AM	12:00PM	Daily
1303	4:00PM	4:30PM	Daily

ROTA TO SAIPAN

FLIGHT #	DEPARTURE	ARRIVAL	FREQUENCY
3101	8:15AM	8:45AM	Daily
3102	1:45PM	2:15PM	Daily
3103	4:45PM	5:15PM	Daily

ROTA TO GUAM

FLIGHT #	DEPARTURE	ARRIVAL	FREQUENCY
3401	12:15PM	12:45PM	Daily

GUAM TO ROTA

FLIGHT #	DEPARTURE	ARRIVAL	FREQUENCY
4301	1:00PM	1:30PM	Daily

SAIPAN TO TINIAN

FLIGHT #	DEPARTURE	ARRIVAL	FREQUENCY
1201	7:00AM	7:15AM	Daily
1202	8:00AM	8:15AM	Daily
1203	9:00AM	9:15AM	Daily
1204	10:00AM	10:15AM	Daily
1205	11:00AM	11:15AM	Daily
1206	12:00PM	12:15PM	Daily
1207	1:00PM	1:15PM	Daily
1208	2:00PM	2:15PM	Daily
1209	3:00PM	3:15PM	Daily
1210	4:00PM	4:15PM	Daily
1211	5:00PM	5:15PM	Daily
1212	6:00PM	6:15PM	Daily

TINIAN TO SAIPAN

FLIGHT #	DEPARTURE	ARRIVAL	FREQUENCY
2102	7:30AM	7:45AM	Daily
2103	8:30AM	8:45AM	Daily
2104	9:30AM	9:45AM	Daily
2105	10:30AM	10:45AM	Daily
2106	11:30AM	11:45AM	Daily
2107	12:30PM	12:45PM	Daily
2108	1:30PM	1:45PM	Daily
2109	2:30PM	2:45PM	Daily
2110	3:30PM	3:45PM	Daily
2111	4:30PM	4:45PM	Daily
2112	5:30PM	5:45PM	Daily
2113	6:30PM	6:45PM	Daily

DPS to keep Shepard as its spokesperson

The Department of Public Safety has renewed the job contract of public information officer Jacqueline Rae Shepard for another year.

Shepard has been the public information officer of DPS since December 2017 and will end her contract on Sept. 28.

Although Shepard has been renewed for another year, she will take a leave of absence for two months to attend to family matters before starting her new contract in December 2018.

"It kind of worked out pretty well. My mom will be 80 years old on Oct. 10 and she lives alone…so I am going home to see what is going on with her. The goal is to settle all her affairs there with her and we will come back here on December 1st," she said.

Shepard

Shepard said that during her first term with DPS, she was able to learn a lot. "It was important to me that residents have as much information so they can stay as safe as possible and that's kind of been my role," she said.

Shepard said she is grateful for the opportunity to stay with DPS because she not only enjoys her job; she also admires the integrity and hospitality of the CNMI police department and has also fallen in love with the island.

Shepard took over the post from Lt. Jason Tarkong, who was doing the job in an acting capacity.

Prior to DPS, Shepard worked as a news anchor for KSPN TV.

Shepard is originally from Aurora, Colorado. She earned her degree in Broadcast Communications from Metropolitan State University in Denver. She then moved to Los Angeles, during which she worked for Torrance City Cable. ***(Kimberly A. Bautista)***

Super Typhoon Trami still affecting Marianas

Super Typhoon Trami continues to move away from the Marianas but developing swells are still expected to affect the islands.

According to a report from the U.S. National Weather Service, Trami is leaving Micronesia but continues to intensify.

The report said that Trami's west-northwest motion will generate a large west-northwest swell within the strong winds south of the eye that will eventually reach the Marianas later this week.

The Marianas can expect hazardous surf this week. Hazardous surf levels are to be expected by Thursday.

Super Typhoon Trami has maximum sustained winds of 160 mph.

NWS Guam is also monitoring a circulation that has been forming north of Pohnpei for the last couple of days.

The circulation's path is still undetermined but is expected to move west-northwest or northwest toward the Marianas after a couple of days.

People can expect increased showers and thunderstorms throughout the weekend. ***(Kimberly A. Bautista)***

Saturday is Chief Aghurubw Day celebration

This year's commemoration of Chief Aghurubw Day, which will be the 48th edition of the annual tradition, will mark 203 years since the first settlement of the Carolinians in the Marianas in the year 1815.

The commemoration ceremony, one of the main activities scheduled for September as Cultural Heritage Month, will be held on Managaha (*Ghalaghal*) Island on Saturday, Sept. 29, 2018.

On behalf of the Carolinian community, the Chief Aghurubw Foundation and the Carolinian Affairs Office, Office of the Governor is inviting the public to join in this memorial celebrat

Chief Aghurubw, the legendary Carolinian chief and a great traditional navigator, set sail from Satawal in the western Caroline Islands over 200 years ago, to seek refuge for his people when a major typhoon devastated their islands. Oral and written history passed through generations spoke of how in 1815, Chief Aghurubw braved uncertainties to relocate his people,

A monument of Chief Aghurubw stands today on Managaha Island, commemorating his achievements and leadership to assure of his people's safety and welfare.
CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

many of whom faced starvation through losses suffered from the typhoon. He navigated the voyage to the Marianas and paid a visit to then-Spanish governor Medinilla in Guam and asked permission for the resettlement. Medinilla granted official approval and bestowed Chief Aghurubw with a legal certificate, a cane and a black top hat, symbols of authority. The chief was often seen wearing the hat proudly, which earned him the nickname "*Parung*" (hat).

The official approval from Medinilla distinguished him as a paramount chief. Upon his death, members of his clan, the *Ghatoliyóól* Clan, carried out his wish that he be buried on Managaha Island.

And as the burial ground of Chief Aghurubw, Managaha Island has become and is well-respected as a sacred ground by the Carolinians, which leads to the island's historical significance.

In memory of Chief Aghurubw, a monument was erected on Sept. 18, 1970, on Managaha Island, heralding the "first official annual commemoration of Chief Aghurubw." His statue, which stands today on Managaha, commemorates his achievements and leadership to assure of his people's safety and welfare.

The annual tribute to Chief Aghurubw will include boat trips to and from Managaha, a commemoration Mass, official remarks, lunch, and traditional performances. Following are the schedules for boat transfers to and from Managaha, courtesy of Tasi Tours Inc., Saipan Sea Cruise, Top Development Inc., and Saipan Sea Ventures.

Hagan Tasi Boat (by Tasi Tours & Saipan Sea Cruise):

■ Departing from Inner Smiling Cove, Marina at 8am

■ Returning from Managaha to Inner Smiling Cove at 3:55pm

Discovery Boat (by Top Development Inc.)

■ Departing from Outer Smiling Cove, Marina at 8:30am, 9:15am

■ Returning from Managaha to Outer Smiling Cove at 4:00pm, 4:30pm

Jambalaya Boat (by Saipan Sea Ventures)

■ Departing from Outer Smiling Cove, Marina at 10:30am

■ Departing from Managaha to Outer Smiling Cove at 4pm

The public is asked to be at the docks 30 minutes prior to departure time. Boats will be departing Saipan on time as scheduled. ***(PR)***

Yaquinto, CUC agree to settlement conference

Former Commonwealth Utilities Corp. financial officer Matthew J. Yaquinto and CUC have agreed to an early conference for possible settlement in their court dispute.

At a status conference yesterday, U.S. District Court for the NMI Chief Judge Ramona V. Mangloña asked the parties about setting an early settlement talks.

Sirok

According to the minutes of the hearing, David Banes, counsel for Yaquinto, agreed to settlement talks.

CUC counsel James S. Sirok agreed with Banes and suggested another status conference.

Mangloña set the matter for an early settlement conference to Jan. 22, 2019, before Magistrate Judge Heather L. Kennedy.

The deadline to file discovery responses is Oct. 1, 2018.

Yaquinto filed a discrimination lawsuit against CUC and five unnamed co-defendants in December 2017 over his termination as chief financial officer in May 2016, allegedly without cause.

CUC filed a counterclaim against Yaquinto for alleged unauthorized overtime pay, unauthorized wire transfers, and unsupported moving expenses.

CUC wants Yaquinto held liable to pay back the $49,399 in unauthorized overtime payments, damages representing wire transfer costs, $10,000 in moving expenses, as well as court costs, expert fees, and attorney's fees. ***(Ferdie de la Torre)***

Power outages on Thursday and on weekend

There will be power outages in some areas on Saipan tomorrow, Thursday, and this weekend due to the Commonwealth Utilities Corp.'s ongoing project to replace wooden power poles with concrete ones.

CUC executive director Gary P. Camacho said one power pole in Koblerville would be replaced and will affect the power supply on Chalan Martinez Road from 3:30pm to 5pm.

Camacho said two power poles will be replaced in Dandan this Saturday and this will cause a power outage on Chalan Monsignor Guerrero from 5am to 10am.

He said two power poles in Puerto Rico would be replaced and this will trigger a power interruption along Chalan Pale Arnold this Sunday from 5am to 10am.

Camacho said the wastewater lift stations in Lower Sadog Tasi and Lower Navy Hill will also be affected Sunday.

CUC's water wells in those areas will not be affected in these three-day period power interruptions.

Camacho said the power interruptions will allow CUC linemen to replace wooden poles with concrete poles at these locations.

CUC's ongoing hazard mitigation project focuses on strengthening and hardening CUC's power distribution system by replacing 787 wooden poles with concrete ones.

Of the 787 wooden poles to be replaced with concrete poles, 762 have been made by CUC and its contractor, Camacho said. CUC expects to finish the project ahead of the Feb. 4 deadline. ***(Ferdie de la Torre)***

PUBLIC NOTICE

15th CNMI STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION

REGULAR BOARD MEETING

September 28, 2018 at 8:00 a.m.
Board of Education Conference Room, Building 1241
Capitol Hill, Saipan, MP 96950

AGENDA[1]

I. Preliminary
1. Call to Order
2. Roll Call
3. Adoption of Agenda
4. Adoption of Minutes
   a. August 29, 2018 Special Board Meeting

II. Public Comments[2]

III. Reports
1. Chair
2. Board Committees
   a. FPA
   b. SARC
3. Commissioner of Education
   a. Financial Status Reports
      i. Federal
      ii. Local
   b. Head Start Program
   c. Others

IV. Unfinished Business

V. New Business
1. Proclamations
   a. Head Start Month
   b. Anti-Bullying Month
2. Financing for USDA Loan
3. Proposed Personnel Regulations Amendments re Sick Leave & Sick Donations (60-30.2-720, 30.2-780 & 60-30.3-620)
4. Proposed Student Attendance Amendment (60-20-240)
5. Proposed Procurement Amendments Re Protests & Appeals
6. Annual Report School Year 17-18
7. Proposed Data Governance Policy
8. Proposed Amendments to Certification & Licensure
9. Certification and Licensure Report No. 2018-010
10. Commissioner of Education

VI. Executive Session[3]
a. Legal Updates
b. Personnel/Certification
c. Other matters

VII. Discussion of Agenda for next Board meeting

VIII. Adjournment

[1] In the event that the items on the agenda are not completed, the meeting will recess and reconvene on the following day or at the most expeditious date and time determined by the Board.
[2] Pursuant to BOE Policy 0415, public comments are limited to 30 minutes. We ask that remarks be limited to 3 minutes each. Everyone is welcomed to submit written comments.
[3] Pursuant to 1 CMC § 9912, the Board may vote to meet in executive session at any time.

Business

China: Talks impossible with a US knife to Beijing's neck

BEIJING (AP)—China cannot hold talks with Washington on ending their escalating trade dispute while the United States "holds a knife" to Beijing's neck by imposing tariff hikes, a Chinese official said Tuesday.

The warning followed the Chinese government's release of a report that accused President Donald Trump of bullying other countries. It dampened hopes for progress toward a settlement of their war over Beijing's technology policy.

Trump went ahead Monday with a tax hike on $200 billion of Chinese imports. Beijing retaliated by imposing penalties on $60 billion of U.S. goods.

The conflict stems from U.S. complaints Beijing steals or pressures foreign companies to hand over technology. American officials say Chinese plans for state-led development of global competitors in robotics and other technologies violate its market-opening obligations and might erode U.S. industrial leadership.

Beijing is open to negotiations but whether they proceed is up to Washington, said a deputy commerce minister, Wang Shouwen. Wang led the Chinese delegation to the last round of talks in Washington in August, which ended without progress.

AP

In this Sept. 13, 2018, photo, a container ship sails past the city skyline of Qingdao in eastern China's Shandong province.

"Now that the United States has adopted such large-scale restrictive measures and holds a knife to another's neck, how can negotiations proceed?" said Wang at a news conference. "It would not be negotiations of equality."

With no settlement in sight, forecasters say the conflict between the two biggest economies could trim global growth by 0.5 percentage points through 2020.

Business groups say American companies report Chinese regulators also are stepping up pressure on them by slowing down customs clearance and increasing environmental and other inspections.

In its report Tuesday, the Chinese government tried to reinforce its position that it is defending free trade, despite complaints by the United States, Europe and other trading partners about market barriers and industrial policy.

It said Beijing has tried to protect the multilateral global trading system and accused Trump of abandoning "mutual respect" required for international relations.

The report gave no indication of possible Chinese concessions or room for compromise. Businesspeople who have met Chinese economic planners say they appear unwilling even to discuss technology policy the ruling Communist Party sees as a route to prosperity and global influence.

"The sharp criticism suggests that China might prefer to wait out the current U.S. administration, rather than embarking on potentially futile negotiations," said Cheng Wei Liang of Mizuho Bank in a report.

"It is increasingly likely that both sides will not resume negotiations for some time, at least until there is a noticeable shift in the political mood on either side."

Congress set to keep gov't open, delay action on border wall

WASHINGTON (AP)—Congress is set to pass a crucial spending bill that averts a government shutdown, but there's one potential obstacle: President Donald Trump.

Neither party wants the government to close ahead of the midterm elections that will determine control of Congress, but Trump has made clear his frustration at the lack of additional money for his long-promised wall along the U.S.-Mexico border. He says it is "ridiculous" the wall has yet to be fully funded.

With less than a week before a Sept. 30 deadline for a partial shutdown, Republican leaders hope they can get Trump to set aside his frustration about the wall and sign legislation that funds the military and a host of civilian agencies for the next year. The bill also would provide a short-term fix to keep the government running through Dec. 7.

The Senate easily approved the measure last week, with only seven senators voting no.

The vote in the House is expected to be closer, with House conservatives voicing displeasure that money is included for Planned Parenthood but not the wall. Separate spending bills being considered in the House and Senate provide funding for the wall, and GOP leaders have said they prefer to resolve the issue after the Nov. 6 elections.

"You want to stanch a blue wave" of Democrats in the midterms? asked Rep. Andy Biggs, R-Ariz., a member of the conservative House Freedom Caucus. "Then keep your promises—and one of those promises is to build the wall."

Trump himself raised the possibility last week that he may not sign the measure unless wall funding is included.

"Where is the money for border security and the wall in this ridiculous spending bill?" Trump said Thursday on Twitter. Republicans "must finally get tough" against Democrats he said are obstructing law enforcement and border security, he added.

But it seems only Trump can stop the spending legislation from becoming law. Biggs and other conservatives admit they don't have the numbers to defeat the spending bill in the House, given that leaders from both parties support the legislation.

BUSINESS BRIEFS

NTSB expected to determine cause of Air Canada close call

Video captured the moment that an Air Canada jet flew off course and just over four other jetliners filled with passengers late on a July night last year in San Francisco. On Tuesday, the National Transportation Safety Board will meet to determine the probable cause of the close call. Board members are likely to focus on actions of the Air Canada pilots, who may have been confused because one of two parallel runways was closed and not lighted. Instead of aiming at the runway, NTSB investigators say the Air Canada jet lined up to land on a neighboring taxiway where the other planes were waiting to take off. The plane flew as low as 59 feet above the ground before the pilots abandoned the landing and pulled their plane up. ***(AP)***

Greece: Drones used to spot tax cheats on Santorini

ATHENS, Greece (AP)—Tax authorities say they have used surveillance drones in Greece for the first time to spot violations on Santorini, where tourists were allegedly being taken on boat tours of the island's sea-filled volcanic crater without getting receipts. Greece's Independent Authority for Public Revenue said Monday that the one-day operation last week involved surveillance of nine tour boats, and that the violations recorded in a follow-up inspection were worth 25,000 euros ($29,400) in lost revenue. In response to a request from The Associated Press, an authority official didn't provide further details. Tax authorities say they have increased inspections at holiday resorts over the summer this year. More than 27 million tourists visited Greece in 2017, up nearly 10 percent from the previous year, according to the Bank of Greece.

Ernst & Young faces 2nd sexual harassment complaint

NEW YORK (AP)—Ernst & Young was slapped Monday with a second sexual harassment complaint in less than year describing a culture of discrimination and lewd behavior toward women at the accounting company. Karen Ward, a former partner with EY, said her supervisor routinely commented her breasts, suggested she should accompany him to strip clubs and texted her at 2 a.m. while on a work trip asking her to meet him for drinks. Ward said her supervisor and other men routinely met with clients at bars and strip clubs, excluding women from important business. In a complaint filed Monday with the Equal Employment Opportunity Commission, Ward said she faced retaliation after complaining to senior executives, including one who warned her to "be careful." Ward, who worked in the North Carolina offices of EY, was fired this month after five years with the company. EY, a U.K.-based company with 260,000 employees worldwide, called Ward's claims "unfounded and baseless."

STOCK PORTFOLIO

LEADING INDICATORS

DOW	S&P	NASDAQ
26,562.05	2,919.37	7,993.25
−181.45	−10.30	+6.29
−0.68%	−0.35%	+0.79%

EXCHANGE RATES

In U.S. dollar terms

Australian Dollar	1.3807	Hong Kong Dollar	7.8115	Russian Ruble	65.7507
British Pound	0.7630	Indian Rupee	72.0378	Singapore Dollar	1.3660
Canadian Dollar	1.2956	Japanese Yen	112.8170	South Korean Won	1093.52
Chinese Yuan	6.7553	Malaysian Ringgit	4.0898	Swiss Franc	0.9655
Euro	0.8516	New Zealand Dollar	1.5051	Taiwan Dollar	30.1842
		Philippine Peso	53.2982	Thailand Baht	32.4075

Nation

Messy domestic politics overshadow Trump's address to UN

UNITED NATIONS (AP)—President Donald Trump charged into office on the resonance of his aggressive "America First" agenda, but now, as he returns to the pinnacle of global diplomacy, he can't escape the growing shadows of domestic political troubles.

Between promoting the wisdom of his rapprochement with North Korea's Kim Jong Un and railing against Iran's malign influence across the Middle East, Trump is finding himself forced to confront the salacious and embarrassing as he participates in the U.N. General Assembly.

White House aides had cast Trump's visit to New York in triumphal terms: an opportunity to assert American sovereignty before the multinational body. He was set to be unapologetic about his decisions to engage with the erstwhile pariah North Korea, remove the U.S. from the Iran nuclear accord and object to U.N. aid programs he believes are contrary to American interests.

Trump is to address the General Assembly on Tuesday morning and will chair a meeting Wednesday of the U.N. Security Council on the topic of counterproliferation. The four days of choreographed foreign affairs were to stand in contrast to a presidency largely defined by disorder.

Appearances on the global stage tend to elevate the stature of presidents both abroad and at home. But even before his arrival for the annual bonanza of world leaders and diplomats, the desired image was muddied by confusion in Washington.

The fate of his second Supreme Court nominee, Brett Kavanaugh, was cast into fresh doubt over the weekend amid a second allegation of sexual misconduct.

Drama also swirled Monday around the status of his deputy attorney general. Rod Rosenstein was reported last week to have floated the idea of secretly recording Trump last year and to have raised the idea of using the 25th Amendment to remove Trump from office. The man overseeing special counsel Robert Mueller's Russia probe and a frequent target of Trump's ire offered to resign and fully expected Monday to be fired. He received a stay of punishment at least until Thursday, when he is to meet with Trump at the White House.

With cable news chyrons flashing breathless updates about both Beltway dramas, news of Trump's foreign policy moves from the U.N. — led by a new trade deal with South Korea—struggled to break through and disappointed White House aides. A similar fate may await Trump when he speaks to the General Assembly.

A year ago, Trump stood at the international rostrum and derided the North Korean leader as "Little Rocket Man" and threatened to "totally destroy North Korea."

AP

President Donald Trump speaks during a meeting with South Korean President Moon Jae-In at the Lotte New York Palace hotel during the United Nations General Assembly, Monday, Sept. 24, 2018, in New York.

California urges Trump to drop plan for weaker fuel standard

FRESNO, Calif. (AP)—California officials demanded Monday that the Trump administration back off a plan to weaken national fuel economy standards aimed at reducing car emissions and saving people money at the pump, saying the proposed rollback would damage people's health and exacerbate climate change.

Looming over the administration's proposal is the possibility that the state, which has become a key leader on climate change as Trump has moved to dismantle Obama-era environmental rules, could set its own separate fuel standard that could roil the auto industry. That's a change the federal government is trying to block.

"California will take whatever actions are needed to protect our people and follow the law," Mary Nichols, chairwoman of the California Air Resources Board, testified at a hearing with federal officials in a region of central California that has some of the nation's worst air pollution.

State Attorney General Xavier Becerra said California could not afford to retreat in the fight against climate change, citing wildfires and high asthma rates among children in the state's San Joaquin Valley, where residents, environmentalists and state officials testified at the first of three nationwide hearings on the mileage plan.

"Stopping us from protecting our people, our jobs and economy or our planet is like trying to stop a mother from protecting her child," he said.

The proposal announced in August by President Donald Trump's administration would freeze U.S. mileage standards at levels mandated by former President Barack Obama for 2020. The standards regulate how far vehicles must travel on a gallon of fuel.

Under the deal finalized under Obama, the standard would rise to 36 miles per gallon (15 kilometers per liter) by 2025, 10 miles per gallon (4 kilometers per liter) higher than the current requirement.

Trump administration officials say waiving the tougher fuel efficiency requirements would make vehicles more affordable, which would get safer cars into consumers' hands more quickly. A major auto industry trade group says it supports annual increases in fuel efficiency but won't say by how much.

Customers aren't buying more efficient vehicles, Steve Douglas, senior director of energy and environment for the Alliance of Automobile Manufacturers, said in testimony prepared for the hearing. The group represents General Motors, Ford, Fiat Chrysler, Volkswagen, BMW and other automakers.

Dallas police officer who shot neighbor fired by department

DALLAS (AP)—A white Dallas police officer who fatally shot her black neighbor inside his own apartment was fired Monday, the same day the man was being buried in his Caribbean homeland.

Police Chief U. Renee Hall dismissed Officer Amber Guyger during a hearing Monday, according to the Police Department. Guyger is charged with manslaughter in the Sept. 6 shooting that left 26-year-old Botham Jean dead, and she was fired because of her arrest, according to the department.

Court records show Guyger said she thought she had encountered a burglar inside her own home. She was arrested three days later and is currently out on bond.

A statement from police said an internal investigation concluded that on Sept. 9, Guyger, a four-year veteran of the force, "engaged in adverse conduct when she was arrested for Manslaughter." Dallas police spokesman Sgt. Warren Mitchell later said that when an officer has been arrested for a crime, "adverse conduct" is often cited in the officer's termination.

Guyger

Mitchell said that adverse conduct is "conduct which adversely affects the (morale) or efficiency of the Department or which has a tendency to adversely affect, lower, destroy public respect and confidence in the Department or officer."

One of the attorneys for Jean's family, Lee Merritt, said Jean was being buried Monday in St. Lucia.

The family's attorneys, along with protesters, have been calling for Guyger to be fired since the shooting. In a statement, the attorneys said they see the termination as an initial victory.

"However, we are committed to seeing through the next steps of the process of a proper murder indictment, conviction and appropriate sentencing," they said in the statement.

Dallas County District Attorney Faith Johnson has said the case will be presented to a grand jury, which could decide a more serious charge than manslaughter.

During a conference call with Jean's parents and their lawyers on Sunday, Hall reported she intended to fire Guyger and explained the delay in the action, according to the family's attorneys in their statement.

Days before the firing, Hall said in a statement that she had not taken action against Guyger because she did not want to interfere with the ongoing criminal investigation.

There are conflicting narratives over what led up to the shooting.

Guyger told investigators that she had just ended a shift when she returned in uniform to the South Side Flats apartment complex where she lived.

She said when she put her key in the apartment door, which was unlocked and slightly ajar, it opened, according to the affidavit. Inside, the lights were off, and she saw a figure in the darkness that cast a large silhouette across the room, according to the officer's account.

Guyger said she concluded her apartment was being burglarized and gave verbal commands to the person, who ignored them. The affidavit said she then drew her weapon and fired twice.

She called 911. Asked where she was, she returned to the front door to see she was in the wrong unit, according to the affidavit. The 911 tapes have not been released.

But according to an affidavit for a search warrant Jean "confronted the officer at the door."

After the shooting, Guyger's blood was drawn to be tested for alcohol and drugs, according to Hall. Authorities have not released results.

Asia

Calm opposition leader wins Maldives presidency amid storm

COLOMBO, Sri Lanka (AP)—Ibrahim Mohamed Solih, the president-elect of the Maldives, spent his youth marching in the streets for democracy. He was elected to Parliament at age 32 as an independent candidate, helping to draw up a new constitution. But unlike other reformers of his generation, Solih was never sidelined by a prison sentence or political exile, a fact that propelled him into the role of the opposition party's standard-bearer.

Political observers say Solih, 56, known by his nickname, Ibu, has been a quiet force behind the tropical South Asian archipelago's transition to democracy and a rallying point for the opposition in crisis under outgoing strongman Yameen Abdul Gayoom.

"He was never in a hurry," Mohamed Aflath, a businessman who voted for Solih in Sunday's election, said Monday. "Some guys who were more eager to become the leader had to say goodbye to politics, some ended in jail while some in exile. But Ibu was very patient and calm."

Solih's supporters flooded the streets of the capital, Male, after his victory speech early Monday, waving the yellow flags of his Maldivian Democratic Party and singing campaign songs. Supporters cited his 25-year career as a parliamentarian as evidence of his commitment and self-restraint—in contrast to some of the country's more power-hungry political leaders.

Amid the celebrations, Solih called on Yameen to immediately begin a smooth transition of power and urged his supporters to remain calm. Solih and his running mate, Faisal Naseem, are to be sworn in on Nov. 17.

An elections-eve police raid of Solih's main campaign office cast a pall over the vote. But Solih assured Maldivians that he had spoken to police and security forces, and that "they expressed their support of the decision of the people."

Solih and his wife, Fazna Ahmed, studied in Australia before returning to join the Maldives' nascent democracy movement, working to establish a multiparty parliamentary system in a nation whose modern history was riddled with conflicts between an ancient monarchy and a string of aristocrats running constitutional autocracies. He dabbled in journalism—working for a state broadcaster and later an opposition magazine—before becoming a member of Parliament in 1995 as an independent.

When Maumoon Abdul Gayoom, an autocrat who ruled Maldives for 30 years, introduced democratic reforms, Solih joined an assembly to draw up a constitution, introducing the country to the concepts of separation of powers and fundamental human rights.

He helped cofound the Maldivian Democratic Party in 2003 along with his wife's cousin, Mohamed Nasheed, who in 2008 became the first president elected in multiparty polls. Solih served as Parliament majority leader during Nasheed's presidency.

AP

Maldives' opposition presidential candidate Ibrahim Mohamed Solih, third left, and his running mate Faisal Naseem, third right, pose for photographers as they celebrate their victory in the presidential election in Male, Maldives, Monday, Sept. 24, 2018.

Polish globe-trotter blunders into Indonesia-Papua conflict

JAKARTA, Indonesia (AP)—To the Indonesian government, the 39-year-old factory worker and globe-trotting Polish traveler is a danger to the state, a man who plotted with shadowy gunmen to foment revolt in isolated eastern jungles.

But to his supporters, Jakub Skrzypski is just an idealistic tourist with no money to his name, a man with an oddball combination of sympathies for right-wing and liberation causes. Even Indonesian police say it's unlikely Skrzypski could have arranged the arms deal they say he promised to make with rebels.

But Skrzypski, who is charged with treason, still faces up to 20 years in prison if he's found guilty. His detention was extended by 40 days on Sept. 17 as police prepare their case against him.

He was arrested in Wamena in Papua province in late August along with four Papuans who police said had ammunition and described as linked to "armed criminal groups"—the authorities' usual description of Papuan independence fighters.

"The true jungle is in Papua, and I've been there, among lizards, mosquitoes, leeches" and other stuff, Skrzypski wrote on Facebook while on the second of back-to-back trips to the region in July and August.

The case highlights Indonesia's extreme sensitivity about the low-level but long-running insurgency in the Papua region, which occupies the western half of the island of New Guinea. Though most nations recognize Indonesia's sovereignty over the territory, the Papuan independence movement has vocal sympathizers in numerous Pacific island and Western countries.

Indonesia annexed the Dutch-controlled half of the island in 1963 when the Netherlands was preparing indigenous Papuans for self-rule. Decades later, though, large areas of the mountainous jungle territory still remain outside of Jakarta's control. Police and military personnel are frequently attacked and killed by rebels, while Indonesian security forces have been accused of dozens of unlawful killings in the past decade, including targeted slayings of political activists.

Police say Skrzypski had been in contact for a "long time" with Papuan independence supporters and separatist fighters. They say he planned to publicize their cause on social media and promised to help supply them with weapons.

"We have strong evidence that he was guilty in helping the armed criminal group in Papua," said the province's police chief, Martuani Sormin. "No one should disturb the integrity of the Unitary Republic of Indonesia, whether he is a foreigner or local. Anyone who violates the law in this country must be dealt with."

But evidence of an actual plot against the Indonesian state appears flimsy.

Photos police cited of Skrzypski with guns were taken at a recreational shooting range in Switzerland, where he has lived since 2008, said his Indonesian lawyer, Latifah Anum Siregar, and a Polish friend, Artur Sobiela.

Siregar said Skrzypski denies any wrongdoing. The case against him is "very weak," she said.

Civil society organizations have also protested his arrest and the arrest several days later of a 29-year-old Papuan student, Simon Magal, who met Skrzypski and communicated with him on Facebook.

"While Mr. Skrzypski's choices may have been irresponsible and regrettable, his circumstances appear those of an idealistic and naive traveler and not one of a criminal," the East Timor and Indonesia Action Network and London-based rights group Tapol said in a joint statement.

They said Magal's arrest was excessive and he'd "simply been dragged in by the actions of Mr. Skrzypski."

National police spokesman Dedi Prasetyo said Skrzypski had unfettered access to an "armed criminal group" in Papua that had designated a liaison to meet and escort him on his trips to the region.

Admired abroad, New Zealand leader faces hurdles at home

WELLINGTON, New Zealand (AP)—Last Thursday, New Zealand Prime Minister Jacinda Ardern announced the high-profile interviews she'd be doing this week in New York, where she's attending the U.N. General Assembly. Among her appearances: the Today show, the Late Show with Stephen Colbert and an interview with CNN's Christiane Amanpour. She also exchanged tweets with the singer Rihanna about the importance of investing in education.

But by Thursday afternoon, Ardern was appearing somber at a hastily called news conference in Wellington, New Zealand's capital. She was firing a lawmaker from her ministerial role following an altercation the lawmaker had with a staff member that some people say turned physical.

In the year since she took office, Ardern, 38, has enjoyed unprecedented global attention for a leader from this nation of fewer than 5 million people. Yet at home, she's faced political pressure as she tries to keep control of a coalition government that sometimes threatens to come apart.

Internationally, Ardern in many ways offers a counterpoint to President Donald Trump: She is young, liberal and espouses an empathetic approach to leadership. She's also pushed the boundaries for women by becoming just the second world leader in modern times to give birth while in office.

Ardern will meet with other leaders at the General Assembly. On her agenda are combating climate change, promoting global trade and supporting the rights of women and children.

She's traveling with her partner, Clarke Gayford, and their 3-month-old daughter, Neve. Gayford joked in a tweet Monday that Neve had kept them awake until 3:45 a.m., without any regard to the changing time zones.

Ardern is certain to attract more attention than some of her predecessors. In 2013, New Zealand's then-prime minister, John Key, was photographed by the European Pressphoto Agency joking with his British counterpart at Nelson Mandela's funeral. The caption? "British Prime Minister David Cameron (R) laughs with an unidentified guest ..."

Back in New Zealand on Monday, Deputy Prime Minister Winston Peters was filling in for Ardern. Peters, 73, is known for his contrarian streak and political combativeness. Asked his thoughts on a proposal to change the name of a local university, Peters said he had an opinion but wasn't telling.

"Otherwise you'll be saying Winston Peters is going rogue," he told reporters. "And you're not going to get that chance again."

Keeping her government on the same page has been a constant issue for Ardern, who needs not only the support of her Labour Party to govern, but also the support of two smaller parties: Peters and his more conservative New Zealand First Party, and the environmentally focused Green Party.

World

Mandela's widow urges world: put egos aside and end violence

UNITED NATIONS (AP)—Nelson Mandela's widow challenged world leaders celebrating his life on Monday to put their egos and partisan politics aside and honor his legacy by ending the "senseless violence" plaguing too much of the world.

"History will judge you should you stagnate too long in inaction," Graca Machel told a U.N. "peace summit" commemorating the 100th anniversary of Mandela's birth. "Humankind will hold you accountable should you allow suffering to continue on your watch."

With peace a scarce commodity, Machel's challenge was echoed by U.N. Secretary-General Antonio Guterres and other leaders who acknowledged the world is far from achieving Mandela's ideals which also include human rights and global cooperation.

"Today, with human rights under growing pressure around the world, we would be well served by reflecting on the example of this outstanding man," Guterres said. "We need to face the forces that threaten us with the wisdom, courage and fortitude that Nelson Mandela embodied."

The tributes to Mandela began with a rare U.N. honor—the unveiling of a $1.8 million statue of the South African anti-apartheid campaigner who became the world's most famous political prisoner, played a key role in ending white-minority rule, and became president in the country's first democratic election. The statue is a gift to the United Nations from South Africa.

His arms are outstretched in the statue, as if to embrace people everywhere. But after the cover was pulled off, South African President Cyril Ramaphosa, with help from Guterres, placed a small South African flag in his lapel.

The day-long summit, with nearly 160 scheduled speakers, set the stage for Tuesday's opening of the General Assembly's annual meeting of world leaders, where conflicts from Syria to South Sudan, rising unilateralism, and tackling a warming planet and growing inequality are among issues expected to be in the spotlight.

With a bang of the gavel by General Assembly President Maria Fernanda Espinosa Garces, the leaders on Monday adopted a political declaration resolving "to move beyond words" to promote peace and prevent, contain and end conflicts. "Dialogue is key, and courage is needed to take the first steps to build trust and gain momentum," it said.

Garces said Mandela "represents a light of hope for a world still torn apart by conflicts and suffering."

Like others, she warned of the rise of populism and unilateralism and its threat to the 193-member United Nations.

"Drifting away from multilateralism means jeopardizing the future of our species and our planet," Garces said. "The world needs a social contract based on shared responsibility, and the only forum that we have to achieve this global compact is the United Nations."

The appeal for collective action to tackle the world's many conflicts, hotspots and challenges is being tested by the "America First" agenda of U.S. President Donald Trump and populist governments in Italy, Hungary, Austria and elsewhere as well as Britain's impending divorce from the European Union.

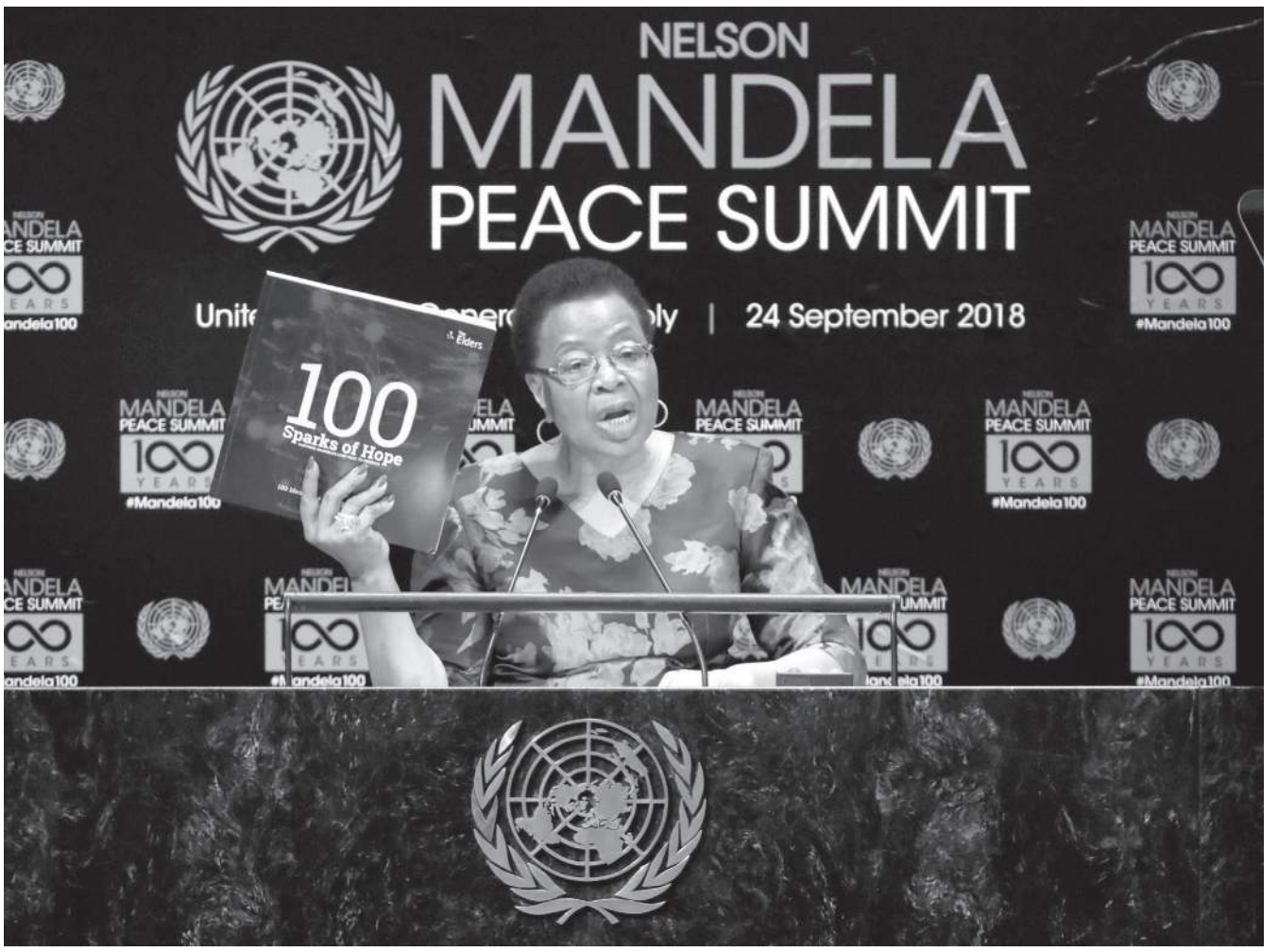
Addressing the Mandela event, Iran's President Hassan Rouhani never mentioned the United States—which has accused Tehran of promoting international terrorism, a charge it vehemently denies.

But Rouhani appeared to be taking aim at Trump and his pledge to build a wall on the U.S.-Mexican border when he said Mandela was a model for the "historical reality that great statesmen tend to build bridges instead of walls."

Alluding to the Trump administration, Cuba's President Miguel Diaz-Canel Bermudez said recent announcements about military expenditures are "alarming" and are pushing the world into a new arms race "to the detriment of the enormous resources that are needed to build a world of peace."

South Africa's Ramaphosa said his country's "deepest hope" is that the summit, "in the name of one of our greatest exemplars of humanity, serves as a new dawn for the United Nations."

"We hope we will rediscover the strength of will to save successive generations from war, and to overcome the hatred of our past and the narrow interests that blind us to the vision of a common future that is peaceful and prosperous," he said. "We hope we will prove ourselves worthy as the bearers of the legacy of Nelson Mandela."



AP

Graca Machel, widow of Nelson Mandela, addresses the Nelson Mandela Peace Summit in the United Nations General Assembly, at U.N. headquarters, Monday, Sept. 24, 2018.

WORLD BRIEFS

Tanzania investigates ferry disaster which killed 225

DAR ES SALAAM, Tanzania (AP)—Tanzania's government on Monday launched an inquest into the cause of the ferry disaster, in which 227 people died when a boat capsized in Lake Victoria last week. The government is also taking steps to build a bigger ferry. A preliminary investigation found that overloading was the main reason that the MV Nyerere overturned on Thursday, because more than 260 people were on the ferry, which had a capacity for 101 passengers. Prime Minister Kassim Majaliwa said a report on the tragedy should be turned in to the government within 30 days. The committee will be led by former Chief of Defence Forces, Gen. George Waitara, he said. The death toll climbed to 227 people when three more bodies were found in the boat. "There might be more bodies inside the wreckage," said Majaliwa. He said 41 people were rescued from the boat. The Defence Forces Chief, Gen. Venance Mabeyo, will supervise the work to pull the ferry from the lake in order to retrieve more bodies that are believed to be inside.

The government is also making plans to build a new, bigger ferry. Majaliwa has ordered officials to begin taking bids for the construction of a new boat to travel between Ukara and Bugorora Islands in Ukerewe district so that business within the area will continue as usual. "The ferry that sunk had a capacity to carry 25 tons and 101 passengers but now the president has directed me to make sure that we build a new one with a capacity to carry 50 tons and over 200 passengers," said the prime minister.

Moldovan court suspends president in political standoff

BUCHAREST, Romania (AP)—Moldova's Constitutional Court has temporarily stripped the country's pro-Moscow president of his duties for refusing to endorse new ministers in a political standoff. Monday's ruling to suspend President Igor Dodon's powers came after he said he wouldn't approve candidates for the health and agriculture portfolios because they lacked the necessary skills. Dodon's spokesman, Maxim Lebedinschi, accused the court of being "an instrument in the political fight." Dodon is at odds with the ruling coalition, which favors closer relations with the European Union and the U.S. It's the fourth time that Dodon has had his presidential powers suspended for refusing to approve government-proposed candidates for ministers or enact laws passed by parliament. The court said the parliamentary speaker or prime minister will be entitled to sign decrees appointing the two ministers.

Charities operating migrant rescue ship ask Europe for help

PARIS (AP)—Humanitarian groups operating the sole private rescue ship near the deadly central Mediterranean human trafficking route have asked French authorities to allow 58 refugees to disembark in the southern port of Marseille.

Medecins Sans Frontieres and SOS Mediterranee are also urging European countries to intervene in order to secure the vessel's future after Panama yanked the ship's registration.

France's government spokesman Benjamin Griveaux tweeted on Monday that the solution will come from "cooperation with our European partners."

"Humanity is to make the ship land in the closest and safest port," he wrote, reiterating France's position on the issue.

Panama's maritime authority said it has begun procedures to remove the registration of Aquarius 2 after Italy complained that the ship's captain failed to follow orders to return rescued migrants to Libya. The charities described Panama's move as shameful.

Francis Vallat, the head of SOS Mediterranee France, asked European countries on Monday to "find a solution, whichever it is. We can't stop, we don't want to stop. We will only yield to force and constraint."

"We never did anything which was not authorized by Italian authorities," Vallat said, adding that the Aquarius 2 rescued 58 refugees last week in two separate operations, including 17 women and 18 minors.

Vallat added that the refugees come from Libya, Pakistan, Ivory Coast, Syria, Sudan, Algeria and Palestinian territories.

According to Vallat, SOS Mediterranee and Medecins Sans Frontieres' refusal to return migrants to Libya was in compliance with maritime law because Libya doesn't meet international standards for safe harbor. Malta and Italy refused to let the ship dock on their shores, and the charities made a formal request to France to welcome the ship in Marseille.

Last month, the ship spent days in Marseille after Gibraltar maritime authorities took Aquarius 2 off its registry. The boat resumed its operation after acquiring a Panama flag.

SOS Mediterranee said it has asked Panama to backtrack on its decision while urging the "international maritime community" to find another flag for the boat if needed.

Focus

Iran's politics go topsy-turvy, 40 years after revolution

By JON GAMBRELL
ASSOCIATED PRESS

TEHRAN, Iran (AP)— Hard-liners batter President Hassan Rouhani over his faltering nuclear deal, sending his popularity plummeting. Women in the streets film themselves removing their mandatory headscarves, or hijabs, in protest. Meanwhile, state television airs moments from a major corruption trial.

Welcome to the topsy-turvy world of Iranian politics.

Ahead of the 40th anniversary of Iran's Islamic Revolution, the country's government is allowing more criticism to bubble up to the surface. Analysts say that may serve as a relief valve in this nation of 80 million people, which already has seen widespread, leaderless protests rock the country at the start of the year.

But limits still clearly exist in Iran's Shiite theocracy, ensnaring lawyers, activists and others in lengthy prison terms handed down in closed-door trials. And the frustration people feel may not be satiated by complaining alone, especially as U.S. sanctions on Iran's oil industry take effect in November.

"If we continue like this, the situation will be more complicated, because people are very tired and they have less tolerance," Faezeh Hashemi, the activist daughter of Iran's late President Akbar Hashemi Rafsanjani, told The Associated Press. "I don't think that the majority of people are after regime change . because everybody is worried what may happen next. But people are after their demands."

Perhaps the person in the biggest lurch in Iran now is Rouhani. America appears poised to further sanction Iran despite Tehran abiding by Rouhani's nuclear deal with world powers, which saw Iran limit its enrichment of uranium in exchange for sanctions being lifted.

In response, Rouhani has slowly replaced his message of rapprochement with the West with hard-line hints about Iran's ability to close off the Strait of Hormuz, through which a third of all oil traded by sea passes.

Part of that may be a hedge over his political future. The 69-year-old Rouhani, himself a Shiite cleric, could potentially be considered when Iran picks its third-ever supreme leader. It isn't out of the realm of possibility: Iran's current supreme leader, Ayatollah Ali Khamenei, served two four-year terms as president before becoming leader after the death of Ayatollah Ruhollah Khomeini, the Islamic Republic's founder.

"From (Rouhani's) perspective, the most important thing is to come through the presidency in one piece and keep himself in the running for the ultimate job, the supreme leadership, which will be up for grabs the day the 79-year-old Khamenei dies," recently wrote Alex Vatanka, an analyst at the Washington-based Middle East Institute.

But popular anger continues to rise against Rouhani, threatening whatever mandate he could claim in the future.

Telephone surveys by IranPoll, a Toronto-based firm, also have seen a precipitous drop in Rouhani's popular support. After scoring a high of 89 percent popularity in August 2015 in the wake of the nuclear deal, Rouhani is now polling at an "all-time low" of around 20 percent, said Amir Farmanesh, the CEO of IranPoll. The margin of error for the firm's polls was around 3 percentage points.

"A president whose election slogan was the 'Government of Prudence and Hope' will be hard-pressed in the next three years of his term to bring back the promised hope," Farmanesh told the AP.

There are signs, however, that the Iranian government recognizes the growing anger. Iranian broadcasters, all state-run, have been airing major corruption trials in recent weeks. They've also allowed skeptical reporting by local newspapers on some cases, like mobile phone importers abusing their foreign currency privileges and another where an alleged "Sultan of Coins" somehow hoarded two tons of gold coins.

At the same time, social media photos of children of the country's elite enjoying luxuries the average Iranian can't have similarly sparked outrage.

"Such stories suggest that the Islamic Republic may be approaching an existential crisis, where its core values such as adopting a simple lifestyle and observing Islam strictly are widely promoted by the establishment but not necessarily followed by the elite," analyst Sara Bazoobandi recently wrote for the Arab Gulf States Institute in Washington. "The hypocrisy of the elite that has become apparent through these scandals has prompted widespread public anger in Iran."

Iran saw nationwide protests in late December and early January over its worsening economic situation, which resulted in nearly 5,000 reported arrests and at least 25 people being killed. Iran's economy only has gotten worse since President Donald Trump withdrew America from the nuclear deal, with the rial going from 62,000 to one U.S. dollar to as low as 150,000 rial to $1. Also, an attack by Arab separatists Saturday on a military parade in the country's southwest killed at least 25 people.

Meanwhile, social change can be seen on any street in Tehran, as some young women wear their state-mandated hijabs loosely over their hair. Some even shrug it down to their shoulders while driving. An image of a young woman, her head uncovered and waving her hijab like a flag in Tehran's main Enghelab Street while standing on a telephone junction box, became famous during the economic protests.

In the time since, authorities have welded slanted roofs over such junction boxes to stop women from carrying out similar protests. Tehran's police meanwhile have said they won't arrest women for not observing the Islamic dress code. However, online videos of women being harassed continue to circulate on social media.

A public referendum on the hijab and other issues, such as whether Iran should re-establish relations with the U.S., could be one way to address the public's concerns, said Hashemi, who learned politics from her father while growing up in a home only steps away from Khomeini's own.

Noting nearly 40 years have passed since the Islamic Revolution, she added: "The world and the situation have changed."

"People have reached a point that they have nothing to lose," said Hashemi, who herself has served prison time over her comments and activism. "Usually you only fear things for the first time, when things happen once you are no longer worried, and you get a bit braver, and you raise your demands more freely."

AP
An Iranian protestor clenches his fist behind a burnt representation of the U.S. flag during a gathering after their Friday prayer in Tehran, Iran, Friday, May 11, 2018. Thousands of Iranians took to the streets in cities across the country to protest U.S. President Donald Trump's decision to pull out of the nuclear deal with world powers.

Good Housekeeping

2018 remembered as 'The Summer of Love' in the garden

By NORMAN WINTER
TRIBUNE NEWS SERVICE

No doubt, 2018 will go down as the 'Summer of Love' in the garden. Oh, it's not like the Summer of '42 or the Greek romance Summer Lovers, but it's the year petunias started giving us that 'loving feeling.'

To be exact, the trend probably started a little earlier but hit the market with the proverbial crescendo this year. If you haven't guessed yet, I am talking petunias with hearts.

When I first saw Proven Winner's Surfinia Heartbeat I was simply amazed. I thought to myself, how did they get a white petunia with pink hearts. I also thought it to be the ultimate Valentine's gift.

Heartbeat is not any old petunia, it is a Surfinia, reaching 12-inches tall and spreading 16-inches. It is perfect for basket or container mono-culture or combined in mixed containers like you would a petunia with a stripe or a blast.

The hearts kept coming however with Lovie Dovie. This is also a Proven Winners plant, but in this case, it is a Supertunia. They call it a pink and white stripe but you will see white hearts all summer. The pink is rich and vibrant showcasing the white heart, and they have bloomed all summer in Columbus, Ga.

AP

Amore Queen of Hearts petunia features dark crimson hearts with a cream background.

Lovie Dovie will reach 12 inches tall with that vigorous spread of 24 inches plus which you are accustomed to with Supertunias, In Columbus, they were partnered in hanging baskets with mandevillas and mixed containers with Golden Delicious pineapple sage.

The most riveting in color, however, may come from Amore Queen of Hearts from Danzinger, a company in Israel. There is actually an Amore series of different colors but the Queen of Hearts is simply breathtaking.

The hearts in this petunia are a deep crimson red against a backdrop of cream. The petunias have held up superbly through a long hot humid summer reaching 12-inches tall and a spread of 12- to 24-inches.

These petunias will give you their hearts if you select a site in full sun. As good as these new petunias are, don't expect wonderful success without proper bed preparation. Take the time to work in 3 to 4-inches of organic matter and till to a depth of about 8 inches.

AP

Heartbeat is a vigorous Surfinia full of love with a bounty of pink hearts.

As you do this, add about 2 pounds of a slow-release fertilizer per 100 square feet. I prefer a 12-6-6 formula with minor nutrients, but that's just me. The petunias will never know the difference if it's something close or balanced but do use a slow-release form of nitrogen. It's a good idea to give them a light application of fertilizer about once a month during the growing season.

More than likely you'll be growing these in baskets or mixed planters. These will need to be fed regularly because as you apply water frequently, each dose leaches out nutrients. I like to use a diluted, water-soluble fertilizer every two weeks.

You will really be amazed to see the new shoots if you maintain your fertilization program. Don't be afraid to cut your petunias back. You will often find that cutting back and adding a little fertilizer helps them survive August, and look wonderful through the fall.

IN LOVING MEMORY OF

†Asuncion Pangelinan Mendiola

Lovingly known as "CONNIE"

In her new life, she now joins her:
Husband: †Aurelio Torres Mendiola
Father: †Juan Cruz Pangelinan
Mother: †Consolacion Concepcion Pangelinan
Father-In-Law: †Antonio Babauta Mendiola
Mother-In-Law: †Dolores Torres Mendiola
Brother: †Vicente Concepcion Pangelinan

Her Memories will forever be in the hearts of her:
Children: Patrick P./ Suzanne C. Mendiola
(Mardyann Joyvette, Aurel Joe/Trinidad B. Magofna (Aleyna Jane),
Ayesha Josie, Connie Noreen, Pattylyn Mae, Richard, Rico, David, Kaylaray, Davico)
Anthony John P./ Fran C. Mendiola (Isaiah)
Allen Junior Pangelinan Mendiola
Melda Consolacion Pangelinan Mendiola
Andrew Jason Pangelinan Mendiola
Nora B./ Antonio Bornilla (Jonathan Christopher, Amanda Marie/Francisco DLG. Cruz (Christopher, Aria Ashley, Denise Francine), Ashley Monique/Shane Mendiola (Kylie Noreen, Ellie Terese, Ty Lee, Zaylie Maria), Antonio II/Dana M. Dela Cruz (Joseph Francisco)

Brothers, Sisters, and In-Laws:
Lourdes C. Pangelinan & Children
Rosa M. Pangelinan & Children
Lucia C. Pangelinan & Children
Loricky M. Pangelinan/Margarita Fujihira & Son

Brothers & Sisters In-Law:
Felix Torres & Children
Carmen M./Michael Pitts & Children
Pedro T. Mendiola & Children
Edward T. Mendiola
Bernadita M./Vicente T. Ada & Children
Felipe T. Mendiola/Kathy B. Mira & Children

She will also be missed by her numerous uncles, aunts, nieces, nephews, cousins, godchildren and friends. Funeral services will be held on Friday, September 28th, 2018. Her remains will be escorted at 12:45 p.m. from Borja Funeral Homes to Mt. Carmel Cathedral. Responso, Holy Rosary and Public Viewing will follow upon arrival. Mass of Christian Burial will be celebrated at 4:00 p.m. followed by Interment service at Chalan Kanoa Cemetery where she will be laid to peaceful rest.

Please join us in prayers. Thank you – Si Yu'us Ma'ase

The Children and Family

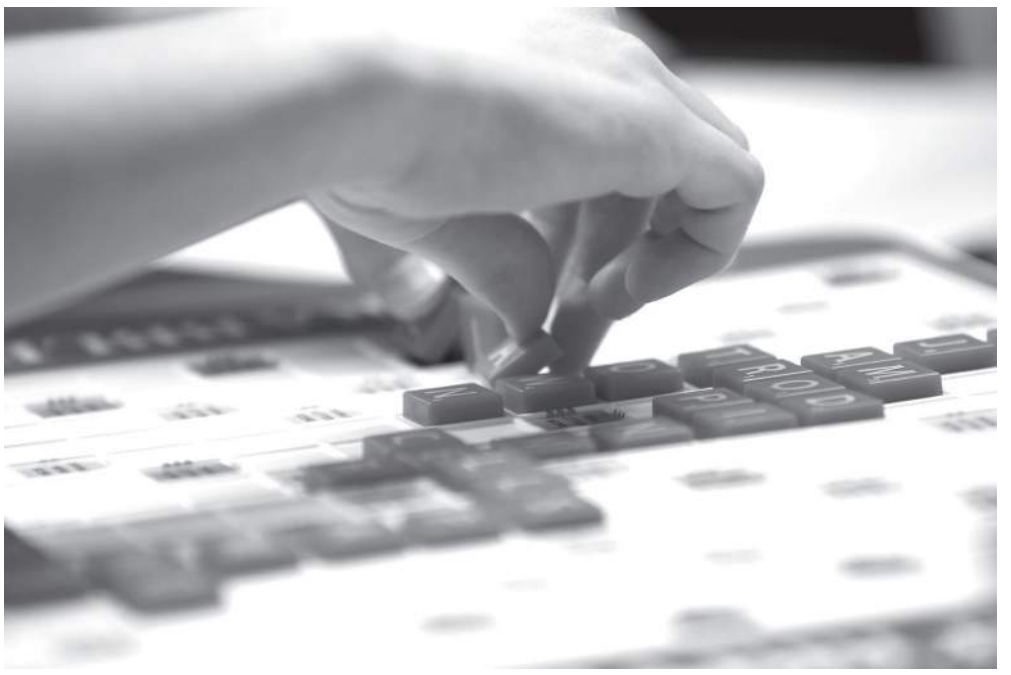
Life & Style

Score! Scrabble dictionary adds 'OK,' 'ew' to official play

NEW YORK (AP)—Scrabble players, time to rethink your game because 300 new words are coming your way, including some long-awaited gems: OK and ew, to name a few.

Merriam-Webster released the sixth edition of "The Official Scrabble Players Dictionary" on Monday, four years after the last freshening up. The company, at the behest of Scrabble owner Hasbro Inc., left out one possibility under consideration for a hot minute—RBI—after consulting competitive players who thought it potentially too contentious. There was a remote case to be made since RBI has morphed into an actual word, pronounced rib-ee.

But that's OK because, "OK."



This May 16, 2015 photo released by Hasbro shows a contestant competing in the first round of the 2015 North American School Scrabble Championship at Hasbro headquarters in Pawtucket, R.I. AP

"OK is something Scrabble players have been waiting for, for a long time," said lexicographer Peter Sokolowski, editor at large at Merriam-Webster. "Basically two- and three-letter words are the lifeblood of the game."

There's more good news in qapik, adding to an arsenal of 20 playable words beginning with q that don't need a u. Not that Scrabblers care all that much about definitions, qapik is a monetary unit in Azerbaijan.

"Every time there's a word with q and no u, it's a big deal," Sokolowski said. "Most of these are obscure."

There are some sweet scorers now eligible for play, including bizjet, and some magical vowel dumps, such as arancini, those Italian balls of cooked rice. Bizjet, meaning—yes—a small plane used for business, would be worth a whopping 120 points on an opening play, but only if it's made into a plural with an s. That's due to the 50-point bonus for using all seven tiles and the double word bonus space usually played at the start.

The Springfield, Massachusetts-based dictionary company sought counsel from the North American Scrabble Players Association when updating the book, Sokolowski said, "to make sure that they agree these words are desirable."

Sokolowski has a favorite among the new words but not, primarily, because of Scrabble scores. "It's macaron," he said, referring to the delicate French sandwich cookie featuring different flavors and fillings.

"I just like what it means," he said.

Merriam-Webster put out the first official Scrabble dictionary in 1976. Before that, the game's rules called for any desk dictionary to be consulted. Since an official dictionary was created, it has been updated every four to eight years, Sokolowski said.

There are other new entries Sokolowski likes, from a wordsmith's view.

"I think ew is interesting because it expresses something new about what we're seeing in language, which is to say that we are now incorporating more of what you might call transcribed speech. Sounds like ew or mm-hmm, or other things like coulda or kinda. Traditionally, they were not in the dictionary but because so much of our communication is texting and social media that is written language, we are finding more transcribed speech and getting a new group of spellings for the dictionary," he said.

Like ew, there's another interjection now in play, yowza, along with a word some might have thought was already allowed: zen.

There's often chatter around Scrabble boards over which foreign words have been accepted into English to the degree they're playable. Say hello to schneid, another of the new kids, this one with German roots. It's a sports term for a losing streak. Other foreigners added because they predominantly no longer require linguistic white gloves, such as italics or quotation marks: bibimbap, cotija and sriracha.

Scrabble was first trademarked as such in 1948, after it was thought up under a different name in 1933 by Alfred Mosher Butts, an out-of-work architect in Poughkeepsie, New York. Interest in the game picked up in the early 1950s, according to legend, when the president of Macy's happened upon it while on vacation.

Now, the official dictionary holds more than 100,000 words. Other newcomers Sokolowski shared are aquafaba, beatdown, zomboid, twerk, sheeple, wayback, bokeh, botnet, emoji, facepalm, frowny, hivemind, puggle and nubber.

Cosby prosecutor asks for 5 to 10 years in prison

NORRISTOWN, Pa. (AP)—Declaring Bill Cosby doesn't deserve a free pass because of his advanced age, prosecutors on Monday asked a judge to sentence the comedian to five to 10 years in prison for drugging and sexually assaulting a woman, while the defense argued that he is too old and helpless to do time behind bars.

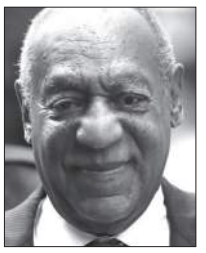
"What does an 81-year-old man do in prison?" defense attorney Joseph Green asked on Day 1 of the sentencing hearing for Cosby, who is legally blind and dependent on others. "How does he fight off the people who are trying to extort him, or walk to the mess hall?"

Green suggested that Cosby instead receive something akin to house arrest.

Montgomery County District Attorney Kevin Steele said that he has no doubt Cosby would commit another such offense if given the opportunity, warning that the TV star seemingly gets a sexual thrill out of slipping women drugs and assaulting them.

"So to say that he's too old to do that—to say that he should get a pass, because it's taken this long to catch up to what he's done?" Steele said, his voice rising. "What they're asking for is a 'get out of jail free' card."

And he said the sentence should send a message to others.



Cosby

"Despite bullying tactics, despite PR teams and other folks trying to change the optics, as one lawyer for the defense put it, the bottom line is that nobody's above the law. Nobody," the district attorney said.

Judge Steven O'Neill is expected to sentence Cosby on Tuesday. The TV star once known as America's Dad for his starring role in "The Cosby Show" could become the first celebrity of the #MeToo era to be sent to prison.

Cosby was convicted in April of violating former Temple University women's basketball administrator Andrea Constand at his suburban Philadelphia mansion in 2004.

After testifying for several hours at two trials, the first of which ended in a hung jury, Constand spoke in court Monday for just two minutes.

"The jury heard me. Mr. Cosby heard me. Now all I am asking for is justice as the court sees fit," said Constand, who submitted a much longer victim-impact statement that wasn't read in court.

Steele quoted Constand in her statement as saying that Cosby took "my beautiful, healthy, young spirit and crushed it."

The three charges on which Cosby was convicted carry up to 10 years in prison each, but both sides agreed to merge them together for sentencing because they stemmed from the same encounter. State sentencing guidelines call for about one to four years behind bars on the combined charge.

The judge is also expected to decide whether to declare Cosby a "sexually violent predator"—a scarlet letter that would make him subject to mandatory lifetime counseling and community notification of his whereabouts.

On Monday, Kristen Dudley, a psychologist for the state of Pennsylvania, testified that Cosby fits the criteria for a sexually violent predator, showing signs of a mental disorder that involves an uncontrollable urge to violate helpless women. A psychologist for Cosby's side is set to testify Tuesday.

Cosby's lawyers argued that the state law on classifying sexual predators is unconstitutional. They contended also that Cosby is unlikely to commit another crime because of his age and health and because there have been no complaints that he molested anyone in the 14 years since his encounter with Constand.

"The suggestion that Mr. Cosby is dangerous is not supported by anything other than the frenzy," Green said, alluding to protesters outside the courthouse and public debate about the case.

Constand's mother, Gianna, also took the stand Monday and attributed her health problems to Cosby-related stress. She accused Cosby of "ruining many lives."

"I can only hope and pray that some sense of peace and faith can be restored back on our family," she said. "The victims cannot be un-raped. Unfortunately, all we can do is hold the perpetrator accountable."

Cosby's side didn't call any character witnesses and touched only on his life and fame, noting how he had been poor, dropped out of high school and served in the Navy before soaring to stardom.

He will be given the opportunity to speak in court before he is sentenced.

Monday's proceedings took place as another extraordinary #MeToo drama continued to unfold on Capitol Hill, where Supreme Court nominee Brett Kavanaugh faces allegations of sexual misconduct from more than three decades ago.

Cosby, looking grim, walked into the courthouse Monday morning on the arm of his longtime spokesman as protesters shouted at him. His wife of 54 years, Camille, was not in court. Several of the jurors who convicted him watched the hearing on a monitor in an overflow courtroom.

Cosby spokesman Andrew Wyatt told reporters in the afternoon that the entertainer was in "great, great" spirits.

"We tell him to stay strong and stay focused, and he's focused on Mrs. Cosby, and that's what matters in his family," Wyatt said. "He's a great guy. He's still America's Dad, and they won't ever take that away. You can't take away the legacy."

In the years since Constand first went to police in 2005, more than 60 women have accused Cosby of sexual misconduct, though none of those claims have led to criminal charges. At least two of those women, including former model Janice Dickinson, were in the courtroom for the start of the sentencing.

Prosecutors had hoped to have some of the other accusers address the court at the hearing. But the district attorney's office told The Associated Press that that would not happen.

Weight Watchers slims down name to WW

NEW YORK (AP)—Weight Watchers is trimming its name to just two letters: WW.

The company says it is renaming itself to focus more on overall wellness and not just dieting. Its app, for example, will offer tips and meditation and give out rewards for tracking meals and exercise.

WW has seen a rise in subscribers, helped by a 2015 investment by Oprah Winfrey. The media mogul has appeared on commercials for the company, promoting her weight loss. WW had 4.5 million subscribers at the end of June, a 28 percent increase from the same period a year before.

The New York-based company says users will see changes to its app starting next week.

Celine Dion to end Las Vegas concert residency next year

LAS VEGAS (AP)—Las Vegas will soon have to find a way to go on without Celine Dion, who announced Monday that her concert residency will end next year.

The Canadian music star took to social media to confirm that she will leave Caesars Palace in June 2019, a decision that brought "mixed emotions."

"Las Vegas has become my home and performing at the Colosseum at Caesars Palace has been a big part of my life for the past two decades," Dion said in a statement. "Every show we do at the Colosseum throughout this fall, and right up until the final one, will feel very special."

She also expressed gratitude to all the fans who have come to watch her over the years.

Dion

Las Vegas has been home to her and her family since moving there in 2002. Her suburban Vegas home in Henderson is where her husband, Rene Angelil, died in January 2016 at age 73. Angelil, who was battling throat cancer, was also her manager. He is credited with molding Dion from a French-speaking ingénue into one of the world's most successful singers. The couple shared three children.

His death drew an outpouring of sympathy from Nevada politicians like U.S. Sen. Harry Reid. At the time, Reid said the couple took a risk on Las Vegas when Dion agreed to take up residency at The Colosseum. Their support was always appreciated.

This will mark the end of Dion's second long-running residency at Caesars Palace. Dion has performed nearly 1,100 shows there since 2003. The first time was from 2003 until 2007. Her current residency began in 2011.

Tickets for next year's shows go on sale Tuesday.

Her final concert will be June 8, 2019.

Lawyer: Mental illness led to Fyre Festival promoter's crime

NEW YORK (AP)—A lawyer says mental illness caused the promoter of a failed music festival to rip off investors and commit other crimes.

Attorney Randall Jackson urged a Manhattan judge Friday to be lenient at Billy McFarland's October sentencing.

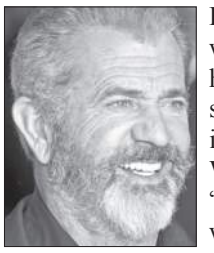
McFarland pleaded guilty earlier this year to defrauding investors in the 2017 Fyre Festival in the Bahamas and cheating customers in a ticket scam. Without leniency, he faces over a decade in prison.

Jackson cited a psychological report saying McFarland has Bipolar Related Disorder and may sometimes have "delusional beliefs of having special and unique talents that will lead to fame and fortune."

McFarland earned tabloid headlines after fraudulently enlisting 80 investors to pour $26 million into a festival promoted as "the cultural experience of the decade." The festival was canceled.

Mel Gibson to direct, co-write remake of 'The Wild Bunch'

NEW YORK (AP)—Mel Gibson will co-write and direct a remake of Sam Peckinpah's classic 1969 Western "The Wild Bunch."


Gibson

Warner Bros. on Monday confirmed that Gibson will helm the production, with Bryan Bagby to co-write the script with him. It will be Gibson's first time directing since his 2016 World War II drama "Hacksaw Ridge," for which Gibson earned a best directing Oscar nomination.

"Hacksaw Ridge" was nominated for six Academy Awards including best picture. The Oscar reception was seen by some as a comeback for Gibson in Hollywood years after he pleaded no contest in 2011 to spousal battery of his former girlfriend Oksana Grigorieva. In 2006, he went on an anti-Semitic tirade while being arrested on suspicion of drunk driving.

No production start or release date for "The Wild Bunch" was announced. Gibson is first prepping a World War II drama to star Mark Wahlberg.

Ken Burns turns his attention to the Mayo Clinic

NEW YORK (AP)—After spearheading an epic, 18-hour documentary on the Vietnam War, acclaimed filmmaker Ken Burns has turned to more personal subject matter—one that knows him very intimately, too.

Burns tackles the famed Mayo Clinic in his next film, exploring the history of the innovative Rochester, Minnesota-based hospital that has been dubbed "The Miracle in a Cornfield." It has treated luminaries such as the Dalai Lama—and Burns.

The first time Burns went, he was immediately impressed by the level and detail of his medical care, like the patient was at the center, not the doctor. "I began to get curious about why this was so different from any other health care experience I'd had," he said.

The result is the two-hour documentary "The Mayo Clinic: Faith, Hope, Science," which starts with the hospital's birth during a tornado in 1883 and ends with the modern-day Mayo, state-of-the-art facilities over several campuses that treat up to 14,000 patients in 24 hours.

Burn

"The Mayo is just a quintessentially American story, just as baseball is a quintessentially American subject, as are the national parks, the Civil War," Burns said. "And this was a story firing on all cylinders, at least as far as I felt. And it was a story that I don't think had been fully understood."

The documentary—directed by Burns, Erik Ewers and Christopher Loren Ewers—features the voices of Tom Hanks, Sam Waterston and Blythe Danner, as well as familiar touches: Peter Coyote narrates, there's rousing music by Aaron Copeland and Scott Joplin, and evocative slow-scans of old photographs known as "the Ken Burns effect."

The film is part of a documentary film empire Burns has on tap. Upcoming are works on the history of country music, Ernest Hemingway, Muhammad Ali, Benjamin Franklin and the American Revolution, as well as deep dives into crime and punishment in America and civil rights during President Lyndon Johnson.

"I'm plotted out to 2030—God and funding willing," he said with a laugh. "As much as I'd like to believe that I pick projects, in fact I think they pick me. And they pick me because they're just quintessential American stories, whatever they might be."

Burns has built a reputation for capturing sweeping historic moments with intimate details of peoples' lives, tackling topics ranging from the Brooklyn Bridge to baseball, from Mark Twain to jazz. His films make the past come alive: Burns was once escorted out of an Alabama church by state troopers from people still upset by the Civil War's outcome.

The Mayo film begins with the unusual collaboration by Dr. W.W. Mayo—"a doctor who worshipped Darwin," Burns said—and a group of Franciscan nuns who began working with Mayo to help tornado victims in 1883.

The hospital adopted a salary-based model of teamwork—not based on ordering tests or a revolving door of patients—that is said to encourage innovation, time with patients and collaboration. In the film, Tom Brokaw and John McCain endorse its methods.

So does co-director Erik Ewers, who started the project not as a Mayo patient but ended up one. He had been suffering from intestinal problems for 20 years and had been given seven different diagnoses without finding relief. While he was filming the Mayo documentary, its doctors reached out.

"They diagnosed it in two days," Ewers said.

Burns calls Mayo's formula a "secret sauce"—one that also manages to have poor patients get free care—and hopes it can offer answers to America's health care problems.

Rockers Blondie to play Cuba on four-day cultural exchange

Blondie will be playing two nights in Cuba next March as part of a four-day cultural exchange program, and fans can come along.

The iconic rock group announced Monday that they will play two concerts during their March 14-18 visit in Havana, which will also feature Cuban musicians Alain Perez, David Torrens and Sintesis.

The organizer, Dreamcatcher Events, is licensed as required under current U.S. travel restrictions to Cuba. The program will also include visits to Cuban museums and cultural institutions, studios and galleries and photography and architecture tours. Pricing for the trip, which includes a hotel reservation, ranges from $2,700 to $5,600.

Man confesses to long-ago affair with best friend's wife

DEAR ABBY
By ABIGAIL VAN BUREN
UNIVERSAL PRESS SYNDICATE

Dear Abby is written by Abigail Van Buren, also known as Jeanne Phillips, and was founded by her mother, Pauline Phillips. Contact Dear Abby at www.DearAbby.com or P.O. Box 69440, Los Angeles, CA 90069.

DEAR ABBY: I found out a month ago that my wife and my best friend had a relationship 40 years ago when we were in our 20s. My friend hinted about it, so I asked him point blank and he confessed.

Obviously, if you can't trust someone, he's not your friend. My question is, should I ask my wife to tell me what went on or just sweep it under the rug and move forward?

Not a day goes by that I don't wonder what happened to make her stray, or how long the affair went on under my nose. I tried talking to her about it right after I found out, but she started crying, which is one of my weaknesses. I don't like making folks upset, so I took the blame because I wasn't a very good husband. We married very young, and I wasn't ready. So, what do I do?

HURT AND ANGRY

DEAR H AND A: I would love to know your "friend's" motivation for hinting so broadly that he'd had an affair with your wife that you'd ask him point blank. He seems more a troublemaker than a stalwart friend to me.

If you have had a happy 40-year marriage, I think you should let it remain so. OK, so neither of you were angels. "Divorce" the "friend" and let it go.

DEAR ABBY: I'm 30, married and the only female analyst in an office with 12 men. I love my job and I enjoy working here, but it is very hard to prove yourself as a woman in a male-dominated industry.

There is one other woman in my office, a recently divorced administrator I barely know. She's very open about her online dating and sex life, and I am at a loss. I feel it's extremely inappropriate for her to share detailed information with me in the workplace. I'm also afraid the guys will hear her and take me less seriously as a professional and equal.

I have tried politely changing the subject, ignoring her or avoiding her, but nothing seems to work. I don't want to embarrass her by telling her flat out to not discuss her sex life with me, but I'm not sure what else I can do. What would you suggest?

COVERING MY EARS

DEAR COVERING: What the woman is doing can be considered sexual harassment, and in most sizable businesses—wyours appears to be one—there are policies in place to protect employees. I suggest you tell her that hearing about her sexual escapades makes you uncomfortable and to please stop. And if she doesn't, discuss it with either human resources or your employer.

DEAR ABBY: My gentleman friend and I are senior citizens who live together. We have acquired a dog and cat. I pay for the cat's food, vaccinations and litter. He pays for the dog's food and vaccinations.

Last week my boyfriend accidentally slammed the door on the cat's tail. Part of it had to be amputated, and the bill for surgery, drugs, cone, etc. came close to $400. Neither of us is hurting financially. Who do you think should foot this bill?

MOTHER OF FUR BABIES

DEAR MOTHER: That poor kitty! I not only think your "gentleman" friend should foot the bill, I think he should have VOLUNTEERED to do it. If he didn't, shame on him.

For everything you need to know about wedding planning, order "How to Have a Lovely Wedding." Send your name and mailing address, plus check or money order for $7 (U.S. funds) to: Dear Abby, Wedding Booklet, P.O. Box 447, Mount Morris, IL 61054-0447. (Shipping and handling are included in the price.)

Pastimes

Calvin and Hobbes

By Bill Waterson

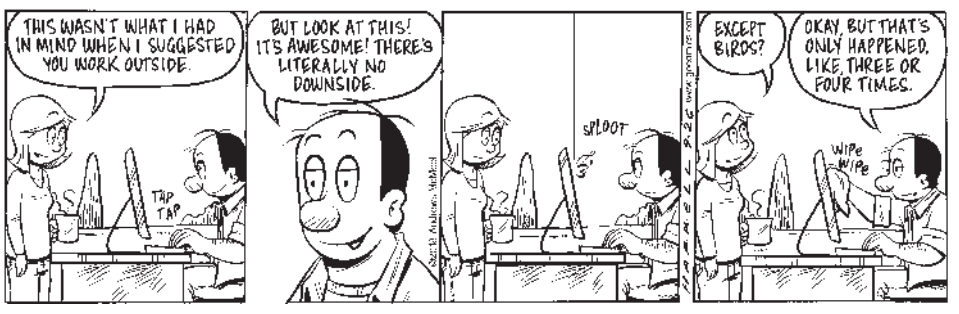
WHY DO YOU THINK THE MARTIAN HID FROM US?
MAYBE MARTIANS DON'T LIKE EARTHLINGS.
DON'T LIKE US?! WHAT'S NOT TO LIKE?! THERE'S NOTHING WRONG WITH HUMANS!
HEY, YOU MARTIAN! COME ON OUT! WE'RE NOT BAD! WE JUST CAME HERE BECAUSE PEOPLE POLLUTED OUR OWN PLANET SO MUCH THAT... UH.. WHAT I MEAN, IS... UM...
SO WHAT ARE YOU SAYING? THAT OUR REPUTATION PRECEDED US?
WOULD YOU WELCOME IN A DOG THAT WASN'T HOUSE-TRAINED?

Garfield®

By Jim Davis

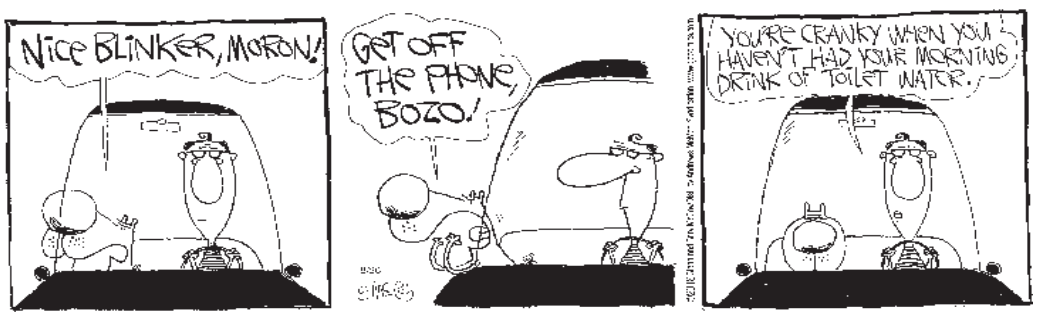
Adam@home

By Bryan Basset


THIS WASN'T WHAT I HAD IN MIND WHEN I SUGGESTED YOU WORK OUTSIDE.
TAP TAP
BUT LOOK AT THIS! IT'S AWESOME! THERE'S LITERALLY NO DOWNSIDE.
SPLOOT
EXCEPT BIRDS?
OKAY, BUT THAT'S ONLY HAPPENED, LIKE, THREE OR FOUR TIMES.
WIPE WIPE

The Duplex

By Glenn McCoy



CROSSWORD

By Eugene Sheffer

ACROSS

1 Low-fat
5 Trio after R
8 Bygone jets
12 River in Tuscany
13 Work unit
14 Related
15 Jet's visible vapor streak
17 Turkish money
18 Thoreau piece
19 Foot part
21 500 sheets
24 Scull tool
25 Needing liniment
28 "The Wizard of Oz" author
30 Hearty quaff
33 By means of
34 Tightly packed
35 "Nasty!"
36 Actor McKellen
37 Yale students
38 Shoppe description
39 Weir
41 Actress Penelope
43 Stephen King novel
46 Vampire's teeth
50 Get wind of
51 Disneyland transport
54 Met solo
55 Mentalist Geller
56 Metric weight
57 Roly- —
58 Gender
59 High-five sound

DOWN

1 Valentine border
2 Love god
3 Curry and Landers
4 Seal user
5 Poseidon's home
6 Prefix with athlete
7 Hybrid fruit
8 Zesty dip
9 Snowy Alpine path
10 Grow weary
11 Crisp cookie
16 Reuben bread
20 Iditarod terminus
22 First victim
23 Frenzied
25 Bird (Pref.)
26 Spy org.
27 Staircase feature
29 Cold War initials
31 TV type
32 Supplement, with "out"
34 Ms. Moore
38 Arkansas range
40 Orderly grouping
42 E.T.'s craft
43 Bloke
44 Plane-related
45 Flightless birds
47 Hammer target
48 Arizona river
49 Sty chow
52 Mine yield
53 Veto

Solution time: 23 mins.

M	A	U	I	■	N	I	B	■	S	C	D	A
P	A	N	G	■	O	V	A	■	U	P	O	N
S	H	O	U	L	D	E	R	■	B	I	N	D
■	■	■	A	Y	F	■	I	G	U	F	S	S
A	L	O	N	E	■	S	T	A	R	■	■	■
N	O	R	A	■	S	H	O	W	B	C	A	T
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S	H	O	E	T	R	E	E	■	B	A	N	S
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S	T	R	I	P	S	■	W	O	W	■	■	■
I	O	U	S	■	S	H	O	P	T	A	L	K
N	E	M	O	■	E	E	K	■	I	D	E	E
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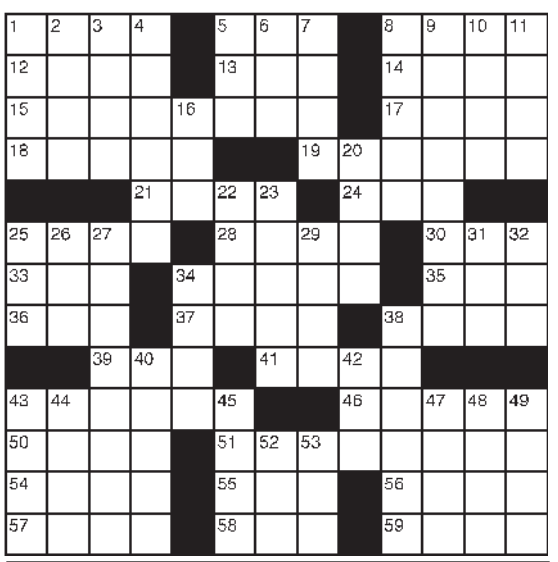
Yesterday's answer 9-26



STUMPED? For answers to today's crossword, call **1-900-226-5955**! 99¢ per minute, touch-tone/rotary phones. (18+ only.) A King Features service, NYC.

CELEBRITIES BORN ON THIS DAY: Christina Milian, 37; Serena Williams, 37; Jim Caviezel, 50; Olivia Newton-John, 70.

Happy Birthday: Speed up and get things done. This is a year of progress, but it's up to you to make that happen. Don't sit on the sidelines expecting someone else to take over. Build your future by physically going after what you want. Use emotional situations to motivate you, not to stop you in your tracks. Take on whatever comes your way. Your numbers are 7, 15, 21, 26, 32, 38, 43.

ARIES *(March 21-April 19):* Settle down and settle in. Treat relationships with respect, and be willing to discuss how you would like to see things unfold. Partnerships will need nurturing, not ignoring. Take care of personal business, and you'll feel better. ✪✪✪

TAURUS *(April 20-May 20):* Don't let the changes going on around you disrupt your day. Go with the flow, and you will find a way to navigate your way to greater stability. Love and romance should be priorities. ✪✪✪

GEMINI *(May 21-June 20):* Travel plans will bring you one step closer to a pending problem you've been trying to resolve. What you discover will help you make a decision that will encourage you to do something you should have done a long time ago. ✪✪✪✪

CANCER *(June 21-July 22):* Emotional situations can lead to poor choices. Before you get yourself into trouble, you should go over the consequences that will unfold should you decide to be reckless. A youngster or lover will try to manipulate you. ✪✪

LEO *(July 23-Aug. 22):* You need to take a break. If things aren't going your way at home or at work, visit someone levelheaded who can help you see your situation clearly. Overreacting will only make matters worse. Surround yourself with positive people. ✪✪✪✪✪

VIRGO *(Aug. 23-Sept. 22):* Don't question what others are doing when you should be focusing on what you are trying to achieve. It's up to you to bring about the changes that will make you happy. A close friend or relative will offer solid advice. ✪✪✪

LIBRA *(Sept. 23-Oct. 22):* Problems at home or with an older friend or relative should be handled with diplomacy. The changes that occur due to a personal situation will end up being beneficial if you put your time, thought and energy into a positive response. ✪✪✪

SCORPIO *(Oct. 23-Nov. 21):* Take precautions if you get involved in physical activities. Don't feel obligated to keep up with someone who may be stronger or better prepared to handle a situation that requires strength. Concentrate more on personal improvement, not competing with others. ✪✪✪

SAGITTARIUS *(Nov. 22-Dec. 21):* A change regarding the way you earn your living may come as a surprise. Accept the inevitable; benefits will follow. Home improvements should be made based on your needs or the needs of someone you love. ✪✪✪✪✪

EUGENIA LAST

THE LAST WORD IN ASTROLOGY

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CAPRICORN *(Dec. 22-Jan. 19):* Don't sweat the small stuff. Retaliation is a waste of time. How you respond matters. Do so with dignity, integrity and persistence. For those who think like you, your friendship will prosper, and for those who don't, let them go. ✪✪

AQUARIUS *(Jan. 20-Feb. 18):* Figure things out for yourself. If you let someone be your leader, you will end up having regrets. Keep your life simple and your overhead doable. Life isn't a competition, and trying to make an impression isn't recommended. ✪✪✪✪

PISCES *(Feb. 19-March 20):* Explore your options and embrace change. Reconnect with people you have enjoyed working or playing with in the past, and get involved in events and activities that are physically or financially beneficial. A commitment will improve your life. ✪✪✪

Birthday Baby: You are disciplined, ambitious and proud. You are adventuresome and changeable.

To submit astrological questions to the "Dear Eugenia" column, visit Eugenialast.com, or join Eugenia on Twitter/Facebook/LinkedIn.

SUDOKU

Conceptis Sudoku *By Dave Green*

		3				4		
9			5		4			7
	4		3	7	9		2	
		8				1		
7		5				6		2
	1	9				5	8	
		4				7		
	5		4	3	7		1	
	6						4	

Difficulty Level ★★★ 9/26

Sudoku is a number-placing puzzle based on a 9x9 grid with several given numbers. The object is to place the numbers 1 to 9 in the empty squares so that each row, each column and each 3x3 box contains the same number only once. The difficulty level of the Conceptis Sudoku increases from Monday to Saturday.

Last Friday's Answer

7	4	2	5	6	3	9	1	8
8	3	9	7	1	2	4	5	6
1	6	5	9	8	4	3	2	7
4	9	3	6	2	8	5	7	1
6	1	8	3	5	7	2	9	4
2	5	7	4	9	1	6	8	3
3	8	4	2	7	5	1	6	9
5	7	6	1	4	9	8	3	2
9	2	1	8	3	6	7	4	5

Difficulty Level ★★

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WONDERWORD®

By DAVID OUELLET

HOW TO PLAY: All the words listed below appear in the puzzle — horizontally, vertically, diagonally and even backward. Find them, circle each letter of the word and strike it off the list. The leftover letters spell the WONDERWORD.

JAMAICAN PATWAH Solution: 7 letters

R	L	U	D	D	Y	N	S	K	N	A	T	H	D	M
N	E	R	T	S	I	S	A	Y	T	D	A	A	M	A
P	U	S	S	E	L	B	A	A	P	U	O	I	E	S
N	E	P	P	A	H	M	L	E	W	R	F	F	S	H
G	M	O	R	E	L	I	F	E	O	G	E	F	Y	U
N	Z	E	L	K	C	I	B	D	L	G	H	N	A	P
O	E	S	G	N	I	T	G	I	B	M	P	A	T	T
R	E	I	R	I	I	Y	K	Z	C	I	U	F	W	O
T	N	J	A	R	A	K	I	B	I	N	G	F	P	U
S	S	A	M	L	L	Z	I	E	O	N	N	U	O	C
H	K	M	U	E	W	L	I	M	E	S	E	N	P	H
T	N	R	M	O	L	D	H	R	W	A	H	C	U	D
R	I	O	H	B	R	A	C	R	A	W	B	S	P	U
A	R	C	A	A	Y	P	P	U	D	I	N	N	A	N
E	B	K	Y	E	N	K	C	I	P	A	T	A	N	G

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Bickle, Big Tings, Big Up, Bill Bak, Bless Up, Brinks, Chaw, Chowziz, Crawb, Creng, Dinna, Do Road, Duppy, Earthstrong, Fiah, Go Easy, Gyal, Happen, Heng Up, Irie, Jamrock, Lata, Likkle More, Luddy, Maad, Mash Up, More Life, Muma, Nuff, Nyam, Patan, Pickney, Pop Up, Prento, Respect, Sistren, Tanks, Tayse, Touch Dung, Tuffa, Wah Gwaan, Yah Mon, Yardie, Zeen

Yesterday's Answer: Checkmate

Treasuries 13 through 33 can be purchased online at www.WonderWordBooks.com.

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SUBMISSION DATE: OCTOBER 02, 2018 TIME: 09:30 A.M.

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/S/ EPIPHANIO E. CABRERA, JR.
ADMINISTRATOR OF OGM

/S/ HERMAN S. SABLAN
DIRECTOR, PROC. & SUPPLY

COMMONWEALTH CASINO COMMISSION
Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands
P.O. Box 500237, Saipan, MP 96950
Tel: 1 (670) 233-1857
Fax: 1 (670) 233-1856
Email: info@cnmicasinocommission.com

JOB VACANCY ANNOUNCEMENT

Opening Date: **September 6, 2018** Closing Date: **September 27, 2018**

The Commonwealth Casino Commission ("Commission") needs immediate recruitment for the following positions:

POSITION	DIVISION	SALARY RANGE	ANNOUNCEMENT NO.
SENIOR ENFORCEMENT AGENT	Enforcement & Investigations	$30,000 - $35,000	CCC-2018-D
ACCOUNTANT	Executive	$30,000 - $35,000	CCC-2018-E
ENFORCEMENT AGENT II	Enforcement & Investigations	$27,000 - $32,000	CCC-2018-F

- **Salary:** Actual salary level will depend on the applicant's education, experience, and other related qualifications.
- **Location:** Saipan, Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands ("CNMI").
- **Benefits:** Basic CNMI government employment fringe benefits.
- **Exempted Position:** This position is exempted from the CNMI Civil Service System per P.L. 18-56 & P.L.19-24.

Requirements:

A. Completed CNMI Government **Application for Employment** (OPM-03) – Original.
B. Resume with accompanying educational and professional credentials & documentations.
C. Police Clearance (within the last 3 months).
D. Copy of your Driver's License or other form of **Valid Identification with photo.**

Education and training claimed under items 24 (A) through (H) of the Application for Employment must be substantiated by an official school transcript, diploma, or certificate. Failure to provide the required documents will result in automatic disqualification.

The Commonwealth Casino Commission is an equal employment opportunity employer. The CCC's EEO policy is to ensure that all employment decisions are made on a non-discriminatory basis, and without regard to sex, race, color, age, national origin, religion, disability, marital status, sexual orientation, political affiliation or belief, or any other status protected by applicable national, federal, state or local law. Please be informed that prior to a job offer, you are required to undergo a pre-employment drug test pursuant to the Alcohol and Drug Free Workplace Policy, Part V.C. of the Personnel Service System Rules and Regulations. The Casino Commission may also require additional criminal background checks and investigations if deemed necessary.

Application Forms can be picked up at the Office of Personnel Management (OPM). For information on the **POSITION DESCRIPTION** and other requirements, please contact the HR Officer, Ms. Juanette Sablan at 233-1857/58 or at info@cnmicasinocommission.com. Interested persons should submit their completed Employment Application Forms along with supporting documents to the **Commonwealth Casino Commission's Office at Springs Plaza (Unit #13 & #14), Gualo Rai, Saipan, MP 96950.**

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QUALIFICATIONS: Bachelor's degree in engineering from a U.S. college or university or foreign equivalent, at least 2 years of geotechnical and/or relevant engineering experience, computer proficient, valid CNMI driver's license, and good oral and written communication skills.

SALARY: Determined based on qualifications

ASSISTANT ENGINEERING TECHNICIAN

DUTIES: Assist engineering technicians in performing field and laboratory testing, and soil investigations. Prepare draft reports based on project observations and inspections. Input field and laboratory data. Communicate with clients, project managers, and others regarding projects. Other duties as assigned by supervisor. Project-specific travel required.

QUALIFICATIONS: High school diploma or GED, at least 1 year of relevant experience and/or training, computer proficient, valid CNMI driver's license, and good oral and written communication skills.

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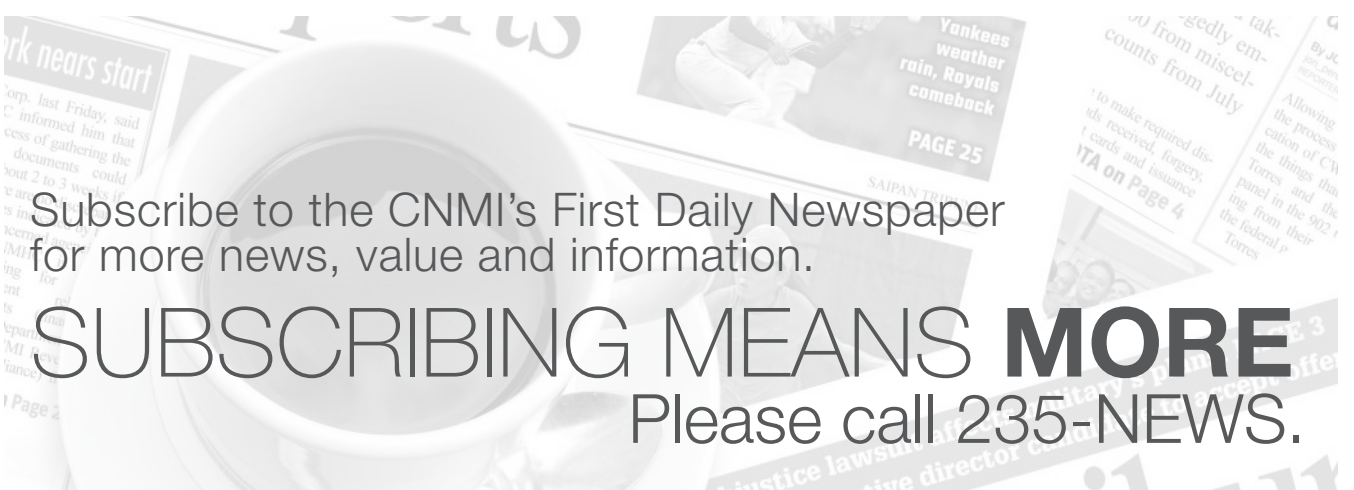

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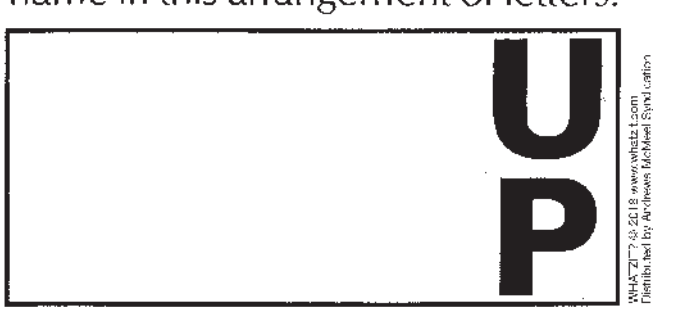

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Red Sox beat Orioles, set franchise record win

BOSTON (AP) —The Red Sox were still shaking hands on the field when the "106" went up in the win column of the AL East standings that are posted on the Green Monster.

Scoreboards flashed "106 Wins." Fans waved signs to celebrate breaking a record that has stood as long as Fenway Park itself.

"You think about all the history of the game and the history of this franchise," Boston manager Alex Cora said after the Red Sox beat the Baltimore Orioles 6-2 on Monday night to earn their record 106th victory and clinch home-field advantage through the postseason.

"To be part of this, I can't even explain it. We should call timeout and enjoy this one," said Cora, who is in his first year as manager. "We know what we want to do in October, but this one ... for us to do it is amazing."

AP

Boston Red Sox third baseman Rafael Devers fields the ball during the fifth inning of a baseball game against the Baltimore Orioles at Fenway Park in Boston, Monday, Sept. 24, 2018.

Mookie Betts had a pair of hits to leave his major league-best batting average at .343, and Nathan Eovaldi struck out 10 hapless batters to assure the Red Sox of the best record in the major leagues this season and home-field advantage through the World Series, if they make it that far.

For now, they know they will open the Division Series at Fenway Park on Oct. 5 against the winner of the AL wild-card game between the New York Yankees and (most likely) Oakland.

"I know how it gets here in the playoffs," said Cora, who played on the team from 2006-08 and was a bench coach with the Astros when they beat Boston in the divisional round last year. "It's a special place, and it's a tough place for the visitors in the postseason."

The 1912 Red Sox won 105 games in their first season at Fenway Park.

Athletics 7, Mariners 3

In Seattle, the Oakland Athletics clinched their first playoff berth in four years, then beat the Seattle Mariners behind Khris Davis' major league-leading 46th home run.

Jonathan Lucroy, Jed Lowrie and Matt Chapman also homered for the A's, assured no worse than an AL wild card.

Oakland was one out into the game when Tampa Bay was eliminated with a 4-1 loss to the New York Yankees. The A's went on to win after Chapman broke a 3-3 tie with a two-run drive in the seventh off Shawn Armstrong (0-1).

Yankees 4, Rays 1

In St. Petersbug, Aaron Hicks injured his left hamstring running up the first-base line in the Yankees' win, another concern for New York heading into next week's AL wild-card game.

Hicks' 11th-inning double on Saturday drove in Didi Gregorius with the run that clinched a postseason berth, and on Sunday the Yankees learned Gregorius tore cartilage in his right wrist during his headfirst slide across the plate.

Astros 5, Blue Jays 3

In Toronto, Brian McCann and Josh Reddick hit back-to-back home runs, and Houston beat Toronto to move one step closer to its second straight AL West title.

The defending World Series champions reduced their magic number to two over Oakland to clinch the division—which would set up a best-of-five postseason matchup against AL Central champion Cleveland. The Astros can secure the AL West crown Tuesday with a win and an Oakland loss.

Dodgers 7, Diamondbacks 4

In Phoenix, David Freese homered and had three hits to back Clayton Kershaw as Los Angeles maintained its lead in the NL West.

Manny Machado had two RBIs for the Dodgers, including a groundout deep into the shortstop hole with the bases loaded in the seventh inning that brought in Yasiel Puig with the go-ahead run. Los Angeles added three ninth-inning runs to stay 1½ games ahead of Colorado.

Rockies 10, Phillies 1

In Denver, Jon Gray pitched seven crisp innings and drew a bases-loaded walk as part of a five-run third to lead Colorado over Philadelphia.

The Rockies won their fourth straight game since being swept at Dodger Stadium. They closed within a half-game of St. Louis for the second wild card after the Cardinals lost to Milwaukee.

Brewers 6, Cardinals 4

In St. Louis, Eric Thames scored on reliever Bud Norris' throwing error in the eighth inning and the Milwaukee Brewers improved their playoff positioning by topping St. Louis.

Ryan Braun homered and Christian Yelich drove in two runs as Milwaukee won for the fourth time in five games. The Brewers (90-67) opened a three-game lead over St. Louis for the top spot in the wild-card standings and pulled within 1 1/2 games of the NL Central-leading Chicago Cubs.

Pirates 5, Cubs 1

In Chicago, Jameson Taillon outpitched Cole Hamels, Francisco Cervelli hit a two-run homer and Pittsburgh made Chicago wait at least another day to clinch a playoff spot.

The Cubs needed a win plus a loss by Colorado to assure a franchise-record fourth straight trip to the playoffs, a run that includes a drought-busting World Series championship in 2016.

Indians 4, White Sox 0

In Chicago, Corey Kluber struck out 11 in seven scoreless innings and won his 20th game, and Brandon Guyer hit a go-ahead solo homer in the seventh as AL Central champion Cleveland beat Chicago.

Kluber (20-7) reached 20 victories for the first time after recording 19 wins last season and 18 victories the two previous seasons and in 2014.

Nationals 7, Marlins 3

In Washington, Anthony Rendon homered and drove four runs, Bryce Harper reached 100 RBIs in a season for the first time and Washington beat Miami.

Juan Soto and Matt Wieters also homered for Washington, which broke it open with four runs on three pitches in the fourth inning.

Padres 5, Giants 0

In San Francisco, Bryan Mitchell struck out seven in 8 2/3 strong innings, and Jose Pirela had a homer among his three hits to lead San Diego.

The Giants lost their fifth straight game hours after the team announced the dismissal of general manager Bobby Evans.

Angels 5, Rangers 4, 11 innings

In Anaheim, Jose Briceno delivered a pinch-hit homer leading off the 11th inning, and Los Angeles snapped its five-game skid.

After Taylor Cole (3-2) retired the Rangers in the 11th, the Angels' rookie catcher walked off with his fifth career homer to center off Matt Moore (3-8).

Woods winning adds to Ryder Cup buzz

SAINT-QUENTIN-EN-YVELINES, France (AP) — Already the most intense competition in golf, the Ryder Cup doesn't need help to boost the excitement.

Tiger Woods managed to take it to another level.

He looked like the Woods of old by leading the final 36 holes of the Tour Championship, not letting anyone near him until it was too late, a vintage performance made all the more remarkable by four back surgeries and a future that looked bleak only a year ago.

Woods was a vice captain at the Presidents Cup a year ago this week and said he envisioned a scenario where he never returned to competition. One PGA Tour event into his return, Jim Furyk selected him as a vice captain for the Ryder Cup.

And then he picked him for the team. And then Woods won for the first time in more than five years.

"It's obviously a nice buzz for our team," Furyk said Monday, a few hours after the American charter plane landed in Paris.

The entire U.S. team was on a charter that arrived in Paris at about 12:45 p.m. European captain Thomas Bjorn arrived late last week, as did a few of his players. Six of them were at East Lake for the Tour Championship. The first official day of practice is Tuesday.

Monday was as much a time to reflect on Woods as it was to rest up for a busy week at Le Golf National.

"I spent 25 years playing professional golf with Tiger Woods on the scene, and any time he does anything great, that's a story. And that's where we want to see him," said Bjorn, the only player to be paired with Woods over 72 holes and beat him. That was in Dubai in 2001.

"He does so much for the game of golf," Bjorn said. "Watching that last night, I thought it was brilliant. It was great for the greater aspect of the game."

The television ratings show as much.

NBC Sports Group said the overnight rating from the Tour Championship was 5.21, the highest-rated telecast in the 12-year history of the FedEx Cup playoffs, which cover 48 events featuring some of the strongest fields of the year.

That was the highest rating of the year this side of the majors, and the highest for the Tour Championship dating to 2000.

"In the end, whatever it is these 24 guys are going to do this week, the game of golf needs that boost of somebody like him that transcends the game to the masses," Bjorn said. "So for everyone in golf, it's brilliant.

Now that Woods is back on his game, the hope for Furyk and the U.S. team is that he's not back to Ryder Cup form.

For all that he has achieved—80 victories on the PGA Tour, 14 majors, No. 1 in the world for 683 weeks—he has a 13-17-3 record in Ryder Cup matches, and he has played on only one winning team since his first one in 1997.

"We don't fear anyone because we've played against them so many times before individually," Bjorn said. "But we respect our opponents and know what we are up against. What stands on the other side we know is one of the strongest American teams of all time. ... We do what we do as a European team, and then we go out and take that on the golf course, and that's all 12 Americans. It's not one individual."

Europe has done it well over the years.

LeBron 'humbled' to join Lakers, expects 'something special'

EL SEGUNDO, Calif. (AP)—LeBron James realizes the size of the challenge he accepted when he joined the Los Angeles Lakers. After eight consecutive NBA Finals appearances, he knows his new team isn't a true contender with Golden State and the NBA's elite just yet.

The superstar welcomed every step in the process Monday as he began his next chapter in purple and gold.

James finally made his first formal appearance as a member of the Lakers at their media day, nearly three months after he left Cleveland for a four-year, $153.3 million free-agent deal. In between posing for photos in his new gold No. 23 uniform, the 33-year-old superstar revealed part of the motivation behind his decision to join an iconic franchise that hasn't made the playoffs in five years.

"No matter what uniform I'm in, I'm always humsbled that I'm able to play this game at this level," James said. "I think we all know that this franchise has been a historical franchise in this league for years. ... That's an excitement in its own right. And then it's just always humbling for me when I get a chance to be a part of something special."

The burgeoning entertainment mogul also politely scoffed at the notion his numerous interests in film and television production would be any distraction from his day job. Moving to Hollywood was not his motivation for going West, he insisted.

"My decision was based solely on my family and the Lakers," James said. "I'm a basketball player. I play ball. That's what I do."

James joined the Lakers along with veterans Rajon Rondo, JaVale McGee, Lance Stephenson and Michael Beasley this summer. They'll team up with the Lakers' talented young core to change the face of a 16-time champion franchise emerging from the worst half-decade in its lengthy history.

But James made it perfectly clear he won't judge his achievements in Los Angeles solely on championships, particularly not during these Lakers' first season together.

"I don't believe the only thing that's a success in marking a season is winning a championship," James said. "There's only one champion, but that doesn't mean you're not successful. There's going to be wins and losses, but what you control is how you prepare every day.

"We're a new ballclub coming together. They have some returning guys, but as far as the ballclub, we're all new to each other. So we have to take our bumps and our bruises. There's going to be good times. There's going to be bad times. That's what happens when a team is new. But if we continue to work the process and we continue to sacrifice for one another and put in the commitment and the time to being great, everything else will fall into place."

This perspective contrasts sharply with the ring-or-bust mentality held by Kobe Bryant, the last superstar to wear this uniform. Two seasons after Bryant's retirement, the Lakers have been replenished by the arrival of James and the veterans that he assembled around him.

"I think this is a great start for the Lakers to get back to championship caliber," said McGee, who just won two championship rings in Golden State. "For me personally, I feel like this is everybody's dream as a basketball player, to put on the purple and gold and compete for a championship."

But on their first formal day together, nobody suggested the Lakers are remotely ready to compete with the Warriors, who would have four consecutive championships if James hadn't won the Cavs' first championship in legendary fashion instead in 2016.

"We've got a long way to go to get to Golden State," James said. "They can pick up right where they left off, starting with training camp. ... We're picking up from scratch, so we've got a long way to go. We can't worry about what Golden State is doing

Los Angeles Lakers' LeBron James fields questions during media day at the NBA basketball team's practice facility Monday, Sept. 24, 2018, in El Segundo, Calif. AP

Curry: Warriors are in 'the thick of another run'

OAKLAND, California (AP)—The Golden State Warriors are back! They met the media on Monday, feeling refreshed after an NBA title that Draymond Green said was the hardest thing he's ever done in his life.

The team's focus is clear for the upcoming season.

The Warriors' latest championship banner already hangs in the rafters, last season behind them. They head into this season, their final at Oracle Arena, knowing their future is uncertain.

"Nothing lasts forever in this league. We've always said we want to keep this going as long as we can and we're right in the thick of it," Stephen Curry said.

"You just have to enjoy the moment, enjoy the now, because there's going to be so much speculation as to what's ahead. Nobody knows what's ahead," Coach Steve Kerr said.

But the addition of another All-Star starter, as well as infusion of younger players, keeps the challenge this season fresh. Even for a two-time NBA Finals MVP.

"We're all smart players, we all know how to play the game. We've got basketball masters on this team that know exactly what to do in certain situations. And I think DeMarcus is one of those basketball geniuses that knows exactly who he is and what he needs to do to be effective," Kevin Durant said.

"My drive has only increased, I'm seriously like a mad man right now. On paper it looks great, of course we've got to go in and put the work in but the potential is scary for this team and it's on us to bring this potential out," DeMarcus Cousins said.

Talent-rich Celtics embracing lofty expectations

In Massachusetts, Last summer, new Boston Celtics arrivals Kyrie Irving and Gordon Hayward beamed just imagining what it would be like to share the court together.

Those dreams lasted all of five minutes before Hayward was lost for the season to a gruesome leg injury on the opening night of the season.

The Celtics somehow survived it and had set themselves up to make a run at the Eastern Conference title when Irving was lost for the final stretch of the regular season and the playoffs following a pair of knee surgeries.

But four months after a season with so much potential was tossed into the "what might have been" basket and following an offseason conference shake-up that saw LeBron James head west to Los Angeles, Boston again finds itself in the spotlight heading into training camp.

Irving and Hayward are back and healthy. And they are flanked by a loaded roster of veterans and talented young players who are hungry for another shot at the franchise's 18th championship.

Irving said last season taught him not to take anything for granted.

"I missed it so much and for it to be taken away the way it did, with the timing and everything, it just wasn't ideal," Irving said. "It was hurtful, honestly, because it was an uncontrollable thing. To go through it was a learning experience, but it only helped my evolution as a person."

Hayward, who is playing without restrictions following a more than 10-month rehab process, played 5-on-5 earlier this month for the first time since his injury.

He said going through the preseason will help him feel 100 percent healthy.

Rockets pin hopes on Melo

In Houston, Rockets owner Tilman Fertitta didn't waste any time telling Carmelo Anthony why he wanted him on his team.

"I'll tell you exactly what I told him," Fertitta said Monday. "'We couldn't win a championship without you last year. And if we win a championship with you this year you're going to be the guy that got us over there. So, it's all up to you.'"

Anthony, who joined the Rockets this offseason after one disappointing season in Oklahoma City, chuckled when asked about that phone call. He was vacationing in South Africa with his family when the phone rang, and Fertitta delivered the message.

"He put a lot of pressure on me," Anthony said. "I'm not even going to lie."

Anthony signed a one-year, $2.4 million deal with the Rockets in August after he was traded from the Thunder to the Atlanta Hawks in July before the Hawks released him.

Spurs looking forward to new faces

In San Antonio, DeMar DeRozan's first month with Spurs coach Gregg Popovich has been serene, though the All-Star guard acquired in the offseason from Toronto has been warned about provoking "angry Pop."

"That hurts me," Popovich said playfully. "I just, just . it hurts me. Our relationship is not starting off well, I guess. I guess I have more work to do than I thought."

Welcome to the kinder, gentler Spurs?

Hardly.

Popovich is still going to scream at his players on the court and will always be mischievous off it. More specifically, the franchise he built is still going to rely heavily on ball movement and defense, albeit with a whole lot of new faces.

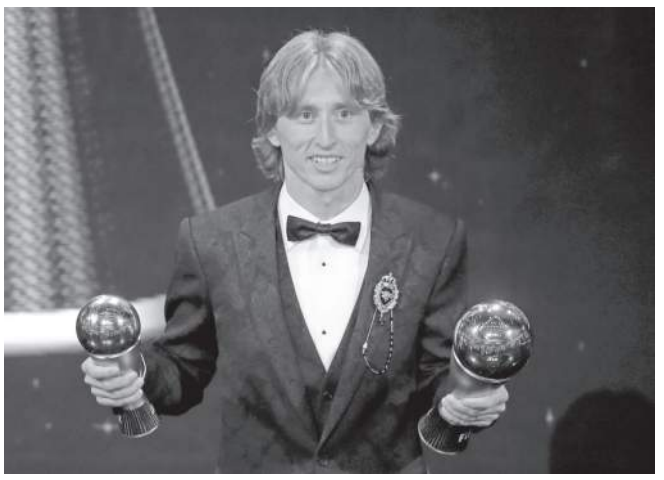
The era of the Big Three is officially over for San Antonio with Tony Parker leaving in free agency and Manu Ginobili joining Tim Duncan in retirement this summer. DeRozan, Jakob Poeltl, Lonnie Walker, Dante Cunningham, Quincy Pondexter and Chimezie Metu and a host of others were invited to training camp, which starts Tuesday.

Modric wins, ends Ronaldo-Messi duopoly

LONDON (AP)—Cristiano Ronaldo and Lionel Messi were far from the auditorium by the River Thames when Luka Modric broke their decade-long grip on FIFA's award for the world's best player.

Football's biggest individual accolade was handed to the 33-year-old playmaker on Monday night in recognition of a year when he led Croatia to its first World Cup final and won a fourth Champions League title in five seasons with Real Madrid.

"It is very important, because for such a small country to win the best player award, it's something amazing and that shows other small countries that everything is possible," Modric said. "You just need to believe and to work for it. And that all dreams could come true."



AP

Croatia's Luka Modric receives the Best FIFA Men's Player award during the ceremony of the Best FIFA Football Awards in the Royal Festival Hall in London, Britain, Monday, Sept. 24, 2018.

It required voters to be more imaginative and not just make the predictable picks of Ronaldo and Messi, who split the previous 10 awards. Messi voted for Modric, while Ronaldo and Modric each voted for Real Madrid's Raphael Varane.

Brazil's Marta did become a six-time winner, earning the women's honor for the first time since 2010.

Another Brazilian, Kaka, had been the last player other than Messi or Ronaldo to claim the men's prize from FIFA, at the 2007 gala.

"We knew we were surrounded by two aliens that were just sharing these awards," Real Madrid and Spain defender Sergio Ramos said. "But I think it is also very positive to recognize the work, the career and the season of players that are not just strikers. I am really happy for Luka Modric".

Modric has had to accept playing in Ronaldo's shadow during six years at Madrid even as the 1.72 meters (5-foot-8) technically-gifted Croatian's ingenuity on the ball and passing range made him as a key component in the team's European dominance.

Modric and Ronaldo on a third successive Champions League in May before achieving something far more unexpected: captaining Croatia to its first World Cup final.

"I would change all my individual trophies for that trophy of World Cup champion," Modric said, reflecting on the 4-2 loss to France in the final in July.

Modric, who joined Madrid from Tottenham in 2012, received 29 percent of votes from the coaches and captains of national teams, reporters and fans.

Ronaldo, who left Madrid in the offseason to join Italian champion Juventus, was second with 19 percent. He captained European Portugal to a round-of-16 exit at the World Cup.

Roethlisberger shines, Steelers top Bucs

TAMPA, Fla. (AP)—It was not the way Ben Roethlisberger would draw it up, but the Pittsburgh Steelers will take it.

In desperate need of a win, the two-time defending AFC North champions capped a tumultuous week in which star receiver Antonio Brown made headlines by shouting at an assistant coach on the sidelines and getting into a spat on social media with a 30-27 victory over the Tampa Bay Buccaneers on Monday night.

The Steelers (1-1-1) built a 20-point lead held on for their first win despite not scoring after halftime.

"I don't feel like we had the ball much in the second half. Three possessions maybe. We need to do a better job putting it away," Roethlisberger said.

"At the end of the day we just wanted to get out of here with a win," cornerback Joe Haden added. "It wasn't a good-looking win at all. They made a lot of plays on us, but at the end we made some big stops."

Roethlisberger threw for 353 yards and three touchdowns, with all but 80 yards of that production coming while the Steelers were building a 30-10 halftime lead.

Vance McDonald scored on a 75-yard pass play and finished with four catches for 112 yards. Brown and Ryan Switzer also had first-half TD receptions for Pittsburgh, which had been winless through two games for the first time since 2013.

The Pittsburgh defense did its part, too, forcing four turnovers, including three first-half interceptions of Ryan Fitzpatrick, the 35-year-old journeyman who threw for 819 yards and eight touchdowns in two victories to begin Tampa Bay's season.

Fitzpatrick, the only player in NFL history to open a season with consecutive games with over 400 yards passing and four touchdowns, tried his best to create "FitzMagic" again in his third start in place of the suspended Jameis Winston.

KENSINGTON

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Prince Factor from bringing Cellular Pro back into the game. Factor had 23 points for the losing squad and was the lone player on Cellular Pro to hit more than three field goals in the third period.

In the second game, veteran Elmer Pineda, June Alipio, and Arellano scored crucial baskets in the fourth quarter to help Kensington foil PEGS' comeback bid.

Pineda had 6 points in the final canto, while Alipio and Arellano combined for 8 markers. The fourth period ended with Kensington ahead, 56-48, but PEGS rallied behind the consecutive baskets of Ron Gamboa, who scored 15 points in the payoff frame.

PEGS played catch up since the first quarter, which saw Kensington taking a 24-16 advantage, as Alipio knocked in 7 of his 15 points in that period. Kensington kept the upper hand in the second quarter, thanks to Jomac Manzano's baskets, while Arellano dropped 8 points in the third, as their squad was still in control of the match. Arellano finished the game with a team-high 19 points.

3

From Page 28

ing methods in our practical exercise is a challenge because as a current coach, we may have habits that need to be broken in order to apply the new learnings," the former CNMI national team member said.

Angeles echoed Zapanta's thoughts about the time they had to devote to the course, but it's all worth it.

"It was tiring because we always finished between 12:30am and 1am, but it was so much fun. I love the practical sessions the most, as we get to do/play the practical sessions and at the same time, understand the dynamics better," Angeles said.

"The course is very significant as I am one of the NMI NT youth coaches. It makes me aware mainly on the off the ball players and allows me to analyze the game better," he added.

For her part, Pagarao hopes more female coaches will be given opportunities to take similar coaching courses to push for the development of women's soccer in the Commonwealth.

"There are more male coaches on the island, so we want to encourage more female players to try the sport and get into coaching, too so we can improve further and compete with other countries. I also took this course because the sport has been very good to me, providing me with opportunities, so I want to give back to the soccer community by sharing what I've learned from the course," Pagarao said.

Last month's course was just the first part and the three coaches will be back in Guam in January next year to have the second module and take the practical and written tests.

"We hope to find out the results next year by summer. And whether I pass or not, I still have a responsibility to my soccer club and players and that is to make them better players and individuals on and off the field. This soccer coaching course and its teachings can apply to real life situations outside of soccer. We will not only become better individuals, but we can also inspire others to do the same and groom better citizens in our community," Zapanta said.

"We would like to thank NMIFA officers and staff for the continued support to the coaches. We would also like to thank coach Mita (NMIFA technical director Michiteru Mita) for always guiding us and sharing his knowledge for us to become better coaches," Angeles said.

AFC instructor and Hong Kong Football Association elite development coach Yusuke Adachi of Japan conducted the first part of the course that ran from Aug. 10 to 23 and was assisted by compatriot and Cambodia U20 National Team head coach Kazunori Ohara.

SSHS

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fought back with a 8-1 rally to threaten Southern, 18-19. Saipan Southern then gained more cushion, 22-20, with its 22nd point coming off Malika Miyawaki's wide spike.

Miyawaki tried again and this time the ball dropped to an unguarded spot, moving SIS within one. A wide return from the Lady Rays tied the match, 22-22, while SIS wrestled the upper hand, 23-22 off another Miyawaki's kill. The second deadlock came in the next play after a short shot from SIS. However, the Lady Geckos reclaimed the lead, 24-23, when Maria Gregoire hit the ball down the sideline, catching Saipan Southern players off guard. SIS went on to close the second set and remain in contention after Sally Lai's tap near the net fell at the frontline with two Lady Rays struggling to receive the ball.

In the deciding third set, the opposing teams had another close battle early on with the game tied last at 5-all, before Saipan Southern gained momentum when sides switched, 8-5.

Though the last set was just a race to 15, it still took a while for the game to finish, as Saipan Southern and SIS had a couple of long rallies. A tap by Cassandra Camacho moved the Lady Rays closer to victory, 14-8, but they failed to end the match in the ensuing play, as SIS countered with a drop shot. Then the game finally ended when SIS' Maury Zon Tybaco's serve went wide off to the sideline.

Earlier in their first duel, SIS prevailed against Saipan Southern in the first set, 25-19, but the latter came back in the second with a tough 25-22 triumph. The third set was another tight match with the Lady Geckos pulling off a 15-11 victory.

Meanwhile, in other results, GCA and MHS swept their respective opponents.

GCA eased past Agape, 25-3, 25-8, 15-7, to remain undefeated, while MHS topped Kagman High School, 25-16, 25-18, 15-8.

TRIBUNE SPORTS SCORES

MLB STANDINGS

	W	L	Pct	GB
East Division				
x-Boston	106	51	.675	—
y-New York	96	60	.615	9½
Tampa Bay	87	69	.558	18½
Toronto	71	86	.452	35
Baltimore	45	111	.288	60½
Central Division				
x-Cleveland	87	68	.561	—
Minnesota	72	83	.465	15
Detroit	63	93	.404	24½
Chicago	61	94	.394	26
Kansas City	54	102	.346	33½
West Division				
z-Houston	99	57	.635	—
Oakland	94	62	.603	5
Seattle	85	70	.548	13½
Los Angeles	75	81	.481	24
Texas	66	89	.426	32½
NATIONAL LEAGUE				
East Division				
x-Atlanta	88	68	.564	—
Philadelphia	78	77	.503	9½
Washington	79	78	.503	9½
New York	73	83	.468	15
Miami	62	94	.397	26
Central Division				
Chicago	91	64	.587	—
Milwaukee	89	67	.571	2½
St. Louis	87	69	.558	4½
Pittsburgh	78	76	.506	12½
Cincinnati	66	91	.420	26
West Division				
Los Angeles	87	69	.558	—
Colorado	85	70	.548	1½
Arizona	79	77	.506	8
San Francisco	72	84	.462	15
San Diego	62	94	.397	25

z-clinched playoff berth
x-clinched division
y-clinched wild card

NFL STANDINGS

	W	L	T	Pct	PF	PA
AMERICAN CONFERENCE						
East						
Miami	3	0	0	1.000	75	52
New England	1	2	0	.333	57	77
Buffalo	1	2	0	.333	50	84
N.Y. Jets	1	2	0	.333	77	58
South						
Tennessee	2	1	0	.667	49	50
Jacksonville	2	1	0	.667	57	44
Indianapolis	1	2	0	.333	60	63
Houston	0	3	0	.000	59	74
North						
Cincinnati	2	1	0	.667	89	77
Baltimore	2	1	0	.667	97	51
Cleveland	1	1	1	.500	60	59
Pittsburgh	1	1	1	.500	88	90
West						
Kansas City	3	0	0	1.000	118	92
Denver	2	1	0	.667	61	70
L.A. Chargers	1	2	0	.333	82	93
Oakland	0	3	0	.000	52	81
NATIONAL CONFERENCE						
East						
Washington	2	1	0	.667	64	44
Philadelphia	2	1	0	.667	59	55
Dallas	1	2	0	.333	41	53
N.Y. Giants	1	2	0	.333	55	62
South						
Tampa Bay	2	1	0	.667	102	91
New Orleans	2	1	0	.667	104	103
Carolina	2	1	0	.667	71	60
Atlanta	1	2	0	.333	80	85
North						
Chicago	2	1	0	.667	63	55
Green Bay	1	1	1	.500	70	83
Minnesota	1	1	1	.500	59	72
Detroit	1	2	0	.333	70	88
West						
L.A. Rams	3	0	0	1.000	102	36
Seattle	1	2	0	.333	65	64
San Francisco	1	2	0	.333	73	89
Arizona	0	3	0	.000	20	74

BY THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Run for the Coconut

CONTRIBUTED PHOTOS

Saipan International School students warm up for the Run for the Coconut held last Thursday along the Governor Froilan C. Tenorio Beach Road Pathway.

Middle school runners from Saipan International School and Saipan Community School head out to the course.

Saipan International School headmaster Ron Snyder gestures to runners after awarding the coconut trophies to the winners.

A Saipan International School student concentrates on his pace.

A Saipan International School student smiles as she nears completion of the race.

Runners head back to the start/finish line.

A Saipan Community School runner keeps a steady pace on his way to the finish line.

A Saipan International School student takes a long stride, as she heads to the finish line.

Red Sox beat Orioles, set franchise record win

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Saipan Tribune
Sports

LeBron 'humbled' to join Lakers, expects 'something special'

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SSHS, SIS in battle royale

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
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REPORTER

Saipan Southern High School and Saipan International School engaged in a slugfest and ended up splitting their double-header in the girls high school division of the 2018-2019 PSS Interscholastic Volleyball League yesterday at the Marianas High School Gymnasium.

The opposing squads played a total of six sets with their pair of matches running for more than two hours and the final one wrapping up past the 6:30pm mark, delaying the start of the last match of the night, which incidentally also featured SIS and Agape Christian School (make-up for the canceled tiff last Sept. 11).

Saipan Southern denied SIS' bid for a sweep, winning the second game, 25-23, 23-25, 15-9.

The Lady Geckos built a 13-8 lead in the first set of Game 2, but could not hang on to the driver's seat, which SSHS finally grabbed at the 16-15 tally. It was a nip-and-tuck affair after that with the Lady Rays escaping with the 2-point win, thanks to SIS' wide shots in the end.

Then in the second set, Saipan Southern was in control of majority of the match and led by as much as 8, 18-10. However, just when the Lady Rays thought they had the game in the bag, SIS

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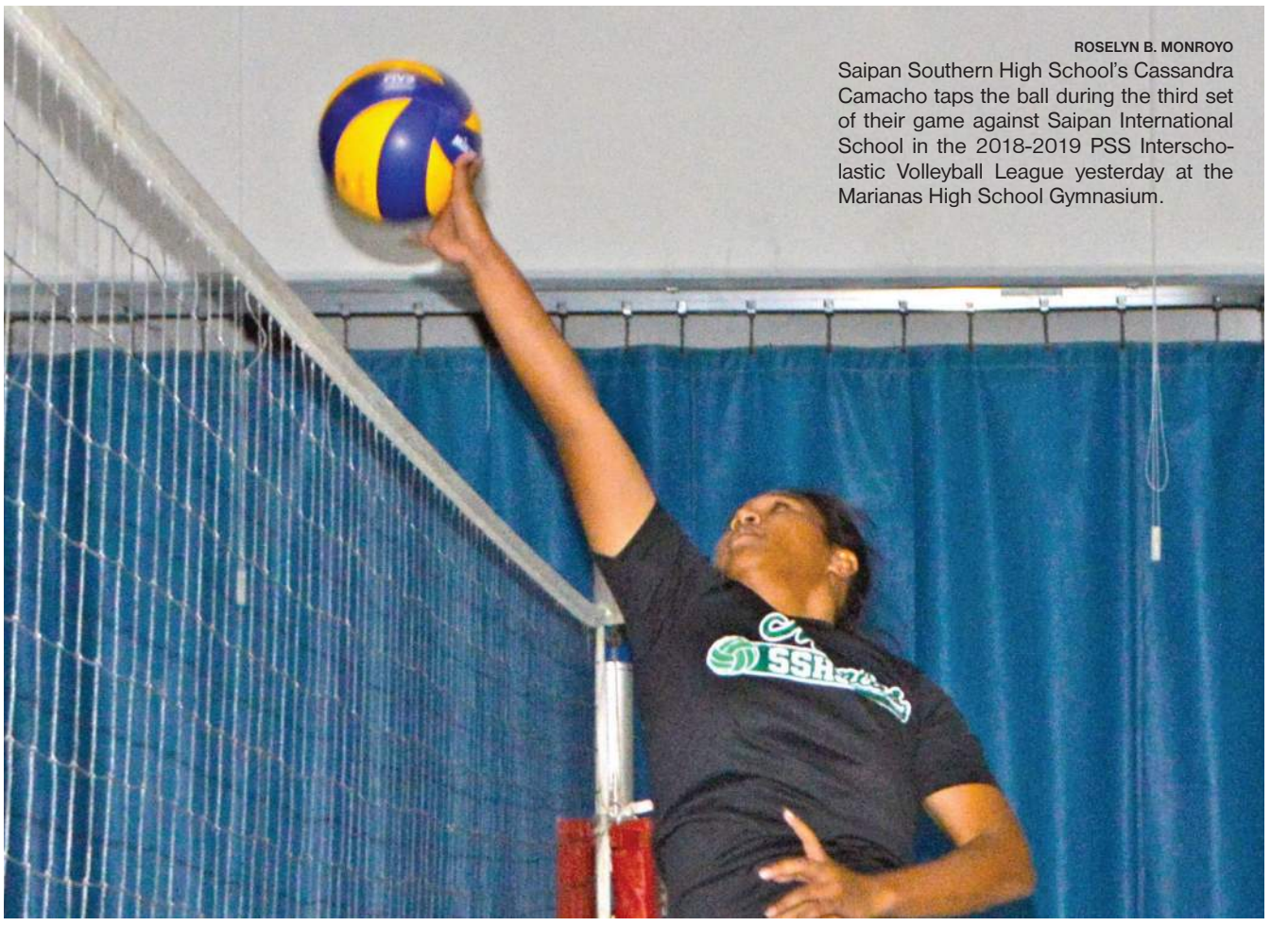

ROSELYN B. MONROYO
Saipan Southern High School's Cassandra Camacho taps the ball during the third set of their game against Saipan International School in the 2018-2019 PSS Interscholastic Volleyball League yesterday at the Marianas High School Gymnasium.

Kensington, Islander outclass foes

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
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REPORTER

Kensington Hotel and Islander Rent A Car led from start to finish en route to winning their season debut in the 2018 Emon Lodge No. 179 Brotherhood/IT&E Basketball League last Monday at the Koblerville Gymnasium.

Islander played in the first game and defeated Cellular Pro, 70-61, while Kensington topped PEGS in the second match, 74-69.

Ken Viray towed Islander to victory after scoring 22 points. He also drew enough help from his teammates, as four other Islander players chipped in at least three baskets each.

Viray drilled his team's first basket and finished the opening quarter with 7 points for their 18-13 advantage. The lead ballooned to double figures at the break, 35-21, as Viray continued attacking Cellular Pro's defense. He delivered the team's last 8 points in the first half, while Ed Pangelinan, Paulo Sanguyo, and Angelo Fernando made their contributions in the third quarter to keep Islander in front.

Islander's multiple options on offense prevented

See KENSINGTON on Page 26

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO
Islander Rent A Car's Ken Viray looks for a teammate to pass the ball to during their game against Cellular Pro in the Emon Lodge/IT&E caging last Monday at the Koblerville Gymasium.

3 take AFC B license coaching course

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
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REPORTER

Three coaches took an Asian Football Confederation B License coaching course last month in Guam.

Northern Mariana Islands Football Association executive director and Southern United Football Club's Ruselle Zapanta, CNMI Men's National Team assistant coach Jersh Angeles, and CNMI Women's National Team manager Irish Pagarao attended the two-week course at the Guam Football Association National Training Center and came home with a lot of knowledge on coaching at a higher level and aimed at sharing what they learned to other coaches and applying them while handling CNMI players.

"The coaching course was great and very insightful. The methodology of how to coach young players for the most part was new to me and to many of the participants. I received my 'C' license six years ago, so it was great to receive a refresher into coaching and also new and updated knowledge," said Zapanta.

He added that the course required long hours of work, both on and off the pitch.

"The long, late hours of the course (sometimes under the heavy rain) were challenging. Classes took up the whole weekend and weeknights to accommodate the participants with their daily, regular jobs. Also applying the new coach-

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CONTRIBUTED PHOTO
From left, Asian Football Confederation instructor Yusuke Adachi of Japan, Jersh Angeles, Irish Pagarao, Ruselle Zapanta, and Cambodia U20 National Team head coach Kazunori Ohara pose for a photo at the conclusion of last month's coaching course in Guam.